

*Privilege—Mr. Nunziata***PRIVILEGE**

ALLEGED MISSTATEMENT OF MR. BEATTY

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege because, for the second time in two days, the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) has made misstatements in the House with respect to the performance of my duties as a Member of Parliament. I feel that his misstatements have abridged, and prevented me from performing, my duties.

I would ask you to consider this as a question of privilege because when he stands up and makes statements which are untrue or which attempt to cast aspersions on my carrying out my responsibilities as a Member, I feel that that is a breach of my privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member clearly feels that there is a grievance. However, I believe she understands that she is raising a matter that is a question of statement of facts, and whether or not it is a misstatement, she has the right to correct it under Standing Order 22 or in future statements.

It would be difficult to find that it constitutes a question of privilege. However, I think she has used the opportunity to make her point.

ALLEGED INCORRECT STATEMENT OF MR. CLARK
(YELLOWHEAD)

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) gave the House false information, perhaps unwittingly, or without wit. However, the fact of the matter is that it was false information which I ask to have withdrawn today so that the record of the House can be properly corrected.

We received a description of a family reunion he had yesterday in the halls of Parliament and I think it is a major abridgement of the privileges of the House. The records of the House should be set straight by the Secretary of State for External Affairs so that we be given proper information and not descriptions of a family reunion.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member is again presenting a dispute as to facts as a question of privilege. I believe he knows full well that that simply is against all of our practices and traditions.

STATEMENT OF MR. BEATTY ON CASE BEFORE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) and I filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission under Section 32 of the Human Rights Act which gives the right to any Canadian to file a complaint before that Commission.

The Human Rights Commission is a quasi-judicial body.

We recognize, of course, that the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) is not a lawyer. Today, during Question Period, the Solicitor General—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member knows that our practice is to require him to put his question of privilege that he wishes to raise early in his comments.

Mr. Nunziata: During Question Period today the Solicitor General commented on a case that is before the Human Rights Commission. My rights as a Member of Parliament have been affected by the Solicitor General's comments on a case and attempting to influence the course of justice—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nunziata: —and attempting to influence a possible decision by the Human Rights Commission.

I would ask that the Solicitor General stand in his place this afternoon and withdraw whatever remarks he made with respect to the merits of the case.

Mr. Speaker: I take it that the Hon. Member is arguing that his privileges have somehow been breached because of a statement made by the Hon. Minister. That clearly cannot be a question of privilege because every Member is entitled to state his or her opinion. There is clearly no question of privilege.

Ms. Copps: It is interference with the system of justice.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have yet to hear anything put to me that sounds like a question of privilege.

Mr. Nunziata: A separate point, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is the Hon. Member raising a second question of privilege?

Mr. Nunziata: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that we in the House are bound by the *sub judice* rule. Therefore, if a particular Member—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the Hon. Member please resume his seat.

The Hon. Member is clearly trying to argue again the question of privilege upon which I just ruled. He knows, I believe, that he cannot do that. Therefore, I have heard no question of privilege.