

Privilege

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will not go so far as to make a ruling on such a futile and childish issue. If every time students organize some kind of happening or demonstration, this House stops everything and spends hours trying to censure one of its members, I think what we need is a motion, and I will be glad to move one, in keeping with this new approach. I am prepared to move a motion of censure against all the accomplices of the senators, who did things far worse than any student could have done.

Mr. Speaker, I would never blame the student. The example was set by the other place. However, we heard no bells, no bicycle horns and no kazoos. I congratulate the students. They were far quieter than their elders who look like a bunch of damned idiots.

[*English*]

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that there is much ado about macaroni. We are supposed to be in the House debating an issue which could lead us into a third world war and instead we are wasting our time talking about macaroni. Let us get on with the business of the House.

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, if I could just make clear the process that did happen yesterday. I was involved in all of the meetings during the day in terms of setting the questions for Question Period. It is certainly the case that there was no question proposed dealing with student fees. There was no suggestion that we raise a question with regard to national students day until much later in the day, I think somewhere around noon. In terms of any link between a request by the Canadian Federation of Students to raise a question and the demonstration, it was certainly nothing that came through us or to us.

To pick up on a couple of points that the parliamentary assistant to the House leader raised, I do not think that we can rely too heavily on what one person might have said about the source of the demonstration or how the demonstration was organized. I have been here when there have been other demonstrations. We have heard all sorts of allegations about who presented passes, who had passes for what, and which MP provided passes to those demonstrators. Never once have I heard it raised

that because a pass from a particular MP was in the hands of a person who demonstrated that there was some implication this MP was involved in the demonstration.

I wonder why the New Democratic Party was not advised by that fairly large number of people who, in fact, suspected that a demonstration was to take place. No one was advised in the New Democratic Party, neither myself, the Whip, nor the deputy Whip. I think it is worth considering why that was not the case.

In that context, I would like to ask that we not forget the reaction from the government side yesterday when this took place. It was not just the case of the hon. member for Athabasca making disparaging comments about the hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair—and at least the member from Athabasca had the courtesy to withdraw his comments—there were statements all across the front bench on the other side and all across the remaining benches on the government side.

None of this appeared in *Hansard*, and perhaps for the better. I think we all know the sorts of comments made yesterday. They came very quickly as soon as the activity arose and they came thick and fast. I think we need to look a little more carefully at that, Mr. Speaker. I ask that you investigate, and I know you will, why the New Democratic Party was not notified, and I hope we will hear some indication of further retraction of statements from the other side as asked by my party leader yesterday. That is all I have to say on that matter, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, this is not because I was student president at Ottawa U, where I had the privilege of being a member of the executive council for five years, apparently a record at the time. Nevertheless, I have a confession to make. I remember that as a student, I launched an *Avro Arrow* from the gallery unto the floor of the House. No one ever knew. Today, the truth is out.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Prud'homme: This object glided to the floor of the House landing at the feet of Mr. Hees, a former and well remembered member of this House.