

of this House be conveyed to the Kennedy family, I think it would be much more appropriate if that sentiment were conveyed by yourself on behalf of us all.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is there agreement that on behalf of Madam Speaker, I convey such a sentiment to the representative of the United States of America in Canada?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Harquail:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly would endorse unanimously and agree that this message be transmitted through the Chair.

Motion agreed to.

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### POINT OF ORDER

#### MISS MACDONALD—INDICTMENT OF BERNARD EVANS IN REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY SUBCOMMITTEE

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) in her question and subsequently on her point of order seemed to leave an implication that there was a question to which I should have responded. The document to which she was referring was a report of a parliamentary committee representing Members of all Parties. It was an unanimous report. All of the Members of that committee have equal responsibility for it and none have more than others. It is not a matter on which I can pronounce in my present position. I said publicly recently in the Hon. Member's city of Kingston, that it did appear, in the light of the coming forward of another gentleman, the words would not be to take credit—, but to admit to responsibility for having uttered the words to which the report referred, that we had indeed made an error in our attribution. I presume all other members of the subcommittee would feel the same way. I do not know any way a subcommittee, which no longer exists and has not existed since 1977, can now make amends. I am certainly prepared to endorse any move which would have the effect of doing that on behalf of the House.

● (1510)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair has indicated that it will take the matter under advisement. Does the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) have something which he wants to add to this point?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) has been allowed to do so. Since he was chairman of that subcommittee, he knows that it was set up primarily due to my own personal instigation. I was one of those on the subcommittee who provided part of that unanimity in the report, but I am also one of the first to say that we made a dreadful mistake in the conclusions that the subcommittee reached with respect to Mr. Evans.

#### Point of Order—Miss MacDonald

Notwithstanding the fact that the Minister avers that he should not in his official position now be taking a position on the matter, I agree totally with the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) that Parliament, having set up the subcommittee and being responsible for the deleterious effects on Mr. Evans, now has the responsibility to undo the wrong it has caused him.

I urge the Government and the Minister, particularly as past chairman of the subcommittee and as part of the present Government, to urge his Cabinet colleagues to take the matter under advisement for the purpose of finding some solution which will restore Mr. Evans to his previously respected position in the Public Service.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair has previously indicated that it will take the matter under advisement. The Chair, however, made a suggestion that the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) may wish to consider putting forward a motion on the matter. That is something the Hon. Member may well want to consider.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The Government should act.

**Miss MacDonald:** It should be the Government.

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Mr. Speaker, I just want to make one very brief comment on this matter. I think the point is being missed, quite frankly. An apology is one thing; it is about all we can do on this side of the House because we do not have the ability to introduce any motion which would involve compensation or the expenditure of public funds.

I think the point my House Leader made is a very appropriate one. It is the responsibility of a Government Member, a Member on the Treasury benches, to bring forward a proposal that would in fact compensate Mr. Evans for the loss he has suffered as a result of a very unfortunate occurrence in the subcommittee. Mr. Evans was precluded, for whatever reason, from giving evidence as to his side of the case. Only one side was heard, and that was the allegation made against him. My point in brief is that it is the obligation of the Government to come forward in terms of compensation for Mr. Evans in this very unfortunate incident.

[Translation]

**Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Rosemont):** On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Rosemont (Mr. Lachance), on the same point of order.

**Mr. Lachance:** Mr. Speaker, yes, as a Member of the Sub-Committee, I would like to point out that it bothers me a little that Hon. Members are trying to turn this into a matter of one side of the House against the other side. If we are to seek an equitable solution, we should do so, but then as Members of this House and not as a Party or as the Govern-