

also be appropriate to make a list of all other members wishing to raise the same question of privilege. But clearly, we do not need to hear the same argument over and over again.

• (1520)

I would ask the rest of the members to cooperate with the Chair and support this approach.

Is there consent to use this approach?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[*English*]

Mr. Flis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a point of order. He may well be able to help me. I will come back to the other members in just a moment.

Mr. Flis: In making your decision, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will not take into account any arguments quoted from what happened in the provincial legislatures. We are masters in our own House and I hope, Mr. Speaker, you will only take the arguments and precedents as set out in Beauséjour, a federal oath of office. Again, I remind anyone who wants to make representations on this case, we are masters of our own House and provincial legislatures are masters of their houses.

Mr. Speaker: The point the hon. member makes is a legitimate one. I want to assure the hon. member that in dealing with this issue I am going to be very careful. However, my point is the hon. member for Shefford has made a good argument. I think he has said about all he can say to persuade me, because I think he has covered the major points.

There are other members who have also filed applications of privilege. I want to make it very clear to them, I do not need to hear an extensive argument from any of them. I would be very pleased to hear from one or more of them very briefly, very briefly indeed. The hon. member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie.

[*Translation*]

COMMENTS MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR YORK
SOUTH—WESTON

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege relates to a statement

the hon. member for York South—Weston made in this House yesterday. He said, talking about me:

A ceremony took place in the city of Hull several weeks ago where the hon. member said to Canadians from one end of the country to another that he was washing his hands of the oath of allegiance that he swore, that each and every one of us swore, to the Queen of Canada, and that his allegiance was to the Province of Quebec. That is fair enough.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct the record. First, I never mocked the Canadian Parliament nor the Queen. I swore the oath of allegiance with all due regard for the democratic institution that the Canadian Parliament is. I did not later say that I was washing my hands of the oath. I did say that it was a formality, and I stand by what I said. It is a formality. I swore allegiance first and foremost to my Laurier—Sainte-Marie constituents, who knew very well, from the start, that I advocated sovereignty. The election results, must I remind you, Mr. Speaker, were conclusive: 68 percent voted for me, 19 percent for the Liberals, 8 percent for the NDP and 3.9 percent for the Conservative Party.

I believe that my election was legitimate and that I can legitimately be a member of this House. I will not repeat all the examples given by my colleague from Shefford, but, as I recall, at every election in Great Britain, the left wing of the Labour Party campaigns against monarchy, then swears an oath to the Queen and request, in one of the first motions they introduce, that monarchy be abolished. Funny that never offended sensitive souls in English Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intention to insult the English Canadians the way I was when some of them trampled on the Quebec flag last spring. I will not reciprocate. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that things are happening quite dispassionately and calmly in Quebec and that incisive and false statements, such as that were made yesterday by the member for York South—Weston, foster a climate which is detrimental for Canada as well as for Quebec.

Mr. Speaker: Again I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member. I would ask all members to be very careful in their remarks and refrain from making accusations or allegations concerning the attitude of their colleagues.

I would urge the hon. member to restrict his comments to the matter under consideration.

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I was about to conclude my remarks by saying that I do not have to listen to a lecture on democracy