

Points of Order

headline imputes bad motives, but not a single Hon. Member—while we may not like that headline, we may not like what the Leader of the New Democratic Party has said—

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Was that said in the House?

Mr. Mazankowski: Whether it was said—it has been said in the House on many occasions as well, but there was never reference to a particular Member, and I think there is a difference when singling out a Member or a group of Members who belong to a political Party.

I see the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) is nodding his head in the affirmative, and that is a matter that should be taken into consideration.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): You are imputing motives again.

Mr. Mazankowski: It is a good motive, I think the Hon. Member would agree.

The issue here is not the content of the debate. The issue here is the use of parliamentary language, and I am appreciative of the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) for having withdrawn his remarks. I know that he takes issue with certain statements the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has made, but there is a way to counter that. Rather than saying it was a lie, the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party could have said that it was untrue, and it would have been totally parliamentary to do so. That is why I appeal to the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) for whom I have a great deal of respect, and I know he may feel very deeply about this as well.

The fact is that we are trying to maintain some standard of parliamentary behavior and utilization of proper and appropriate parliamentary language. I have from time to time used words that are excessive and offensive, and I have withdrawn them. I regretted having used them. The Hon. House Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Riis) and I had a bit of an exchange, and he as well, in a very gracious manner, withdrew. I think our respect for each other grows as a result of acknowledging that we made a mistake.

I would appeal to the Hon. Member for Skeena, who is a very good Member of Parliament and a vigorous debater. I have been to his constituency and I have tried to unseat him, and it has always been done with the most honourable of intentions. I think what we are doing here is something that is important, not only to Hon. Members of the House but indeed to those watching.

If any Hon. Member of Parliament takes issue with something that is said on either side of the House, there is a parliamentary way of dealing with that, and that is all we are asking for here. Once again, notwithstanding the very eloquent argument the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault) put forth, I would humbly submit that in this particular case, it would not apply.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I do not often tend to agree with my hon. friend, but on this procedural matter, I want to say that he did, I think, make a very important point when he referred to Citation 316 of Beauchesne's which refers to the imputing of motives to a Member.

It is with a little reluctance, now that I agree with my hon. friend, that I refer to the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) who felt it inappropriate to raise the matter himself. On the same day, in the same exchange, as reported on page 10480 of *Hansard*, in the exchange with the Hon. Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. de Cotret), the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) did refer to my hon. colleague from Yorkton—Melville when he asked what the Member had against western Canada and what he had against Alberta. While I appreciate my hon. friend's pointing out this aspect of the citation, the Minister was referring specifically to the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville when he asked what that Member has against western Canada, and more specifically the Province of Alberta. As you reflect on this matter raised by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski), I ask you to consider that as well.

• (1640)

Mr. Speaker: I will carefully consider the representations. However, I am quite happy to be able to say to Hon. Members that in a difficult situation and after a brief adjournment I appreciate very much the co-operation and dignity with which all Hon. Members made their interventions.

With respect to the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton), I would ask him to consider his position. He knows he can discuss the matter with his good and loyal colleagues. If he wishes, he can of course discuss it with the Chair.

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POINTS OF ORDER

ALLEGED INSULTING REMARK

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. During the high-minded speech of his Leader, the House Leader of the NDP called me a sleazebag. I wonder if in the spirit of amity now pervading this House he might want to withdraw that remark.

Mr. Nystrom: I think Crosbie said that was all right. Not about you, Joe.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): He said I was a former Leader, that is all right.

Mr. Speaker: I am tempted to say I did not hear him. However, the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) has the floor.