

*Privilege—Mr. Lalonde*

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is demonstrating that he would flunk his law exam today even more than at the time of his studies.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lalonde:** The Leader of the Opposition does not appear to know the difference between a shareholder and a director of a corporation. I will be very happy to give him that free advice after question period.

Second, the Leader of the Opposition does not appear to know that under the Canada Business Corporations Act, which has been amended by this Parliament, directors are no longer required to own shares in order to be directors.

**Mr. Nielsen:** You are the only shareholder.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Therefore, you can be a director of a Crown corporation established under the Canada Business Corporations Act and not have a single share. That is part of the act passed by this Parliament which the Leader of the Opposition has not bothered to read.

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**PRIVILEGE**

MR. LALONDE—REMARKS OF MR. ANDRE UNPARLIAMENTARY

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege or a point of order concerning unparliamentary language used in this House on April 21 against myself. I have already written to you, Madam Speaker, to give you notice of the fact that I wanted to raise this point of order today because my schedule has not permitted me to stay in the House after question period to speak on this point until today. I am sorry for the delay between the time of the infraction of the rules of the House and the time of this discussion, but I find it more regrettable that this type of disrespect for the rules of the House of Commons should arise at all.

I would like to thank the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais) for having raised the issue immediately at the time when the incident occurred and for reserving my right to raise a question of privilege.

I spoke in support of Bill C-103, to amend the Petroleum Administration Act. The member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) spoke against it. I addressed this House first and explained the content and intent of Bill C-103, a piece of legislation founded like so many other aspects of this government's energy policy upon principles of equity and fairness—

**Mr. Clark:** That is absolute nonsense.

**Mr. Lalonde:**—founded on the simple notion that the rich should share with the poor; that is those blessed with abundant natural resources should aid those who have less.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Lalonde:** When I concluded my remarks, Madam Speaker, the member opposite from Calgary Centre rose in his place. I remained in the House as long as I could to hear his remarks. I would characterize that part of his speech which I heard as confused, but at least it was delivered in parliamentary language. The hon. member for Calgary Centre was wrong but he was not disrespectful of the traditions of this House.

Part of the way through his lengthy remarks, I was forced by other business to leave this House. When I did so the hon. member from Calgary Centre adopted a far different speaking style and word usage than I had heard. The record of this House of that day is found on pages 16476 to 16481 of *Hansard*. They reveal that the Mr. Hyde mentality of the Dr. Jekyll for Calgary Centre once more got the better of him.

After I left the House on April 21 the language of the hon. member for Calgary Centre appeared to degenerate into words and expressions some of which were unparliamentary, some of which were unfortunate and most of which were uninformed. In at least three different places the record of this House of April 21, 1982, clearly demonstrates that the hon. member for Calgary Centre used language which beyond any shadow of a doubt violates my privileges as a member of this House.

First, on page 16477 the hon. member speaks of the “down-right dishonesty of the minister”.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members are not helping the Chair by applauding when words like this are invoked. This particular instance happened at least a week ago and it will be difficult for the Chair to rule on it. It would be helpful if the House listened to the point of order or the question of privilege. The notice given to me said the matter was a question of privilege but the hon. member has referred to it also as a point of order. In any event, I am taking the matter as being a question of privilege unless the minister tells me otherwise. I would like hon. members to assist me by listening to this question of privilege so that I can decide whether there is any reason to intervene.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I simply want to remind the Chair that you have many times stated that if an hon. member cannot lay his question of privilege or point of order before you within the space of five lines of *Hansard*, then there is something wrong.

**Madam Speaker:** The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege, and I remind hon. members on the other side that sometimes they have occupied up to one and a half hours of time on a single question of privilege.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** But they had some substance to them.