

*Income Tax Act*

**Mr. Brisco:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for giving me unanimous consent. The minister in his speech made reference to the fact that his government's policy has been one of lending assistance in considerable measure in the form of DREE funding for those areas that need regional incentives. That was the minister's statement, or words to that effect.

**An hon. Member:** Who cares?

**Mr. Brisco:** If that is government policy, would the minister explain why it is that a small segment of the Department of External Affairs provides \$1.4 billion for CIDA, whereas the budget for his much-touted DREE is \$514 million?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the hon. member would compare those two budgets, that of CIDA and that of DREE. I presume the implication of the question is that this government is spending too much on one or the other, or both. Certainly one can find members opposite who will attack the spending by DREE when it concerns the province of Quebec. I have seen them isolate Quebec when it is clear from the evidence that, because their need is greater, the Atlantic provinces get more. But they will isolate the province of Quebec in attacking DREE spending. That is an example of what I was talking about.

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

**An hon. Member:** Right on.

**Mr. Lang:** Surely now in that question we have the excitation of another prejudice against another very important policy of this country, and that is to help those areas of the world which are less fortunate. If I believe, as a person from an area which now happens to be becoming a have province rather than a have not, in the principle of helping now and in the future of those regions of the country which are poor and which need the help, so will I now and in the future believe in working for those parts of the world. Because their poverty is so fantastic that they do not compare with the poor of the poorest region in this country. If in that question the hon. member if for a moment expressing as Conservative policy that our foreign aid is too great, then I hope all others on his side of the House, as they jump up so fast in other cases, will in this case too jump up and disown the suggestion that we give too much in foreign aid. It is a despicable suggestion.

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Prince George-Peace River on a point of order.

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, my point is one of privilege rather than of order. I cannot believe that we would, as lightly as we have, overlook the minister's comment as he was concluding his speech. He clearly said, and he left the impression, that members of the Conservative caucus were going throughout this country, and particularly western Canada, spreading lies

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard).]

about the performance of this government. He made an innuendo about a publication that appeared recently in western Canada which is bought and distributed by the Conservative party in western Canada. Does the minister have the courage to name the publication and its author so that we can judge as to what connection the Conservative party or any other party has with this particular author? We can then look at the publication to see what kind of lies may or may not have been spread in it.

● (2052)

In the party of which I am a member, honesty has always been the best policy. It will be the best policy in spite of the assiduous attempts by those across the aisle to prove differently. I want the minister to withdraw the reference about members on this side lying to people in western Canada. I would also like him to have the courage to identify the publication and the author about which he has spread this innuendo.

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I hope I will have the opportunity to check the record. This is rather interesting. It is my impression that I talked about the lies and deception of Conservatives without necessarily identifying members of parliament. I did not go out of my way to exclude them, and sensitivities opposite may lead me to believe there is something there.

As far as the publication is concerned, the record will show, interestingly enough, that I said they encouraged distribution of it. The hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle) said something about the Conservative party buying and distributing a publication. Is that what they are doing? I did not know that for a fact and I am interested to hear that. The fact is the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie) recently quoted extensively from that publication, so the hon. member can get the reference to it that I am making.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I first raised the question of privilege with regard to the statements made by the Minister of Transport in this House. According to my recollection, and I want to reserve my right until I look at the transcript of the proceedings, the minister referred to Conservatives lying. Certainly there was reference in the context of the official opposition. On the basis of precedents by Your Honour of very recent date, that is definitely and clearly unparliamentary language.

I reserve my right to raise this matter again. I will not stand here and have him, of all people, accuse people on this side of the House of lying. It is clearly unparliamentary. It is one thing to make some sort of general reference, but in the context in which the minister was speaking it was clearly a reference to people on this side of the House.

Aside from everything else, common decency should possess the minister to stand up and withdraw unequivocally any reference to anybody on this side of the House lying. My recollection is clear in that regard. If he would do the proper thing, the minister would stand in his place and withdraw any allegation of lying by any member on this side of the House.