

PRIVILEGE

WITHDRAWAL OF COMMENTS

Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period in an exchange between the Minister of Employment and Immigration and members of the NDP, there were some interjections by an hon. member from the NDP. I also made comments which I categorically and completely withdraw. The comments were inappropriate and ill advised. I want to apologize most sincerely to this House.

Some hon. members: What did you say, what did you say?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plamondon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I simply wanted to ask —

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Richelieu raises a point of order, but first I must recognize the hon. member for Essex—Windsor, on a question of privilege.

[*English*]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, as somebody who heard the reference to which the previous member has referred, which was a reference to my colleague—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. The tradition and the practice here is that if a withdrawal is made and it is without equivocation the matter is over. The hon. member may want to pursue it with discussions or in some other way, but the reason that the rule is applied in this way is that under some circumstances there might clearly be no end to it. It could go on and on and on and there has to be an end to it.

I have listened very carefully to the withdrawal. I regret the incident. The withdrawal is given and that is the end of it.

Is it that the hon. member for Essex—Windsor has another point of privilege? Is it something different?

I will hear the hon. member.

Mr. Langdon: My point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that if somebody is withdrawing something it is necessary in my view for the—

Point of Order

Mr. Speaker: I am trying to make it very clear that it is not appropriate to continue endlessly a debate when someone has got up and made a clear and abject apology and a withdrawal.

There has to be an end to it, otherwise we would be here all afternoon.

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[*Translation*]

POINT OF ORDER

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, just now, I was surprised to hear the Prime Minister use the words “hypocrite” and “stupid” in referring to members of this House. Is this kind of language parliamentary, Mr. Speaker? If so, we will start using it too, but I still think it would be preferable to withdraw these terms from parliamentary usage.

Mr. Speaker: I will examine the exchange that took place. Generally, the word “hypocrite” is unparliamentary, but perhaps we should consider the context—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: As soon as I have had a chance to consider the context, I will hand down a ruling.

[*English*]

Mr. McCurdy: I have a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I will hear the government House leader and then I shall hear the hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair.

DESIGNATION OF ALLOTTED DAY

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I would like to designate tomorrow an opposition day.

COMMENTS IN CHAMBER

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Essex—Windsor tried to make a point which I insist on having the opportunity to make.