have been elected. This is why I support your decision, Madam Speaker, and I ask that you apply it.

[*English*]

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I find the intervention of the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) a little offensive at this point. You indicated that you were about to proceed with a ruling. That is not subject to any questioning.

Mr. Nielsen: No.

Mr. Paproski: The Speaker did not rule.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I know the parliamentary secretary did not intend intentionally to mislead the House by that observation. I am sure Your Honour will confirm you were indeed inquiring of members who had filed notices of questions of privilege whether they wanted to withdraw their question of privilege. It is for the members, at the request of the Speaker, to make a decision. With respect to the intervention of the hon. member for Olivier, the person who shares an apartment with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde)—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Olivier: Madam Speaker, on a point of order—

Madam Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Paproski: Sit down!

An hon. Member: When the Speaker is standing you have to sit down.

Madam Speaker: We are already on a point of order and there cannot be two at the same time. I shall ask the hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) to conclude his point of order, and afterwards, if the hon. member for Longueuil wishes to rise on another point of order, I shall be able to hear him.

[*English*]

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Madam Speaker, initially I have to apologize to the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Olivier). He is a distinguished member of this House. He is a handsome, intelligent and concise man and I do not want to offend him by calling him by his own name.

The point I want to make is that if members are not allowed at least to make an initial statement with regard to their question of privilege, that would be an unfortunate precedent. In the course of carrying out your duties, Your Honour has the discretion at a particular point in time to ask an hon. member to get to the point. Indeed, you may not be satisfied that there is a question of privilege. If we look ahead to the consequences of not allowing members to have the opportunity to make an initial statement on their question of privilege, we may regard that as an unfortunate precedent. I wanted to clarify this because the parliamentary secretary did interject and I wanted to explain the point to him.

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Longueuil yelled across the floor for me to shut up, which is unparliamentary language. I would ask the hon. member to withdraw it.

Madam Speaker: That is not an unparliamentary expression, although I am not sure that it is in the best of taste.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That is what you get for living with Lalonde.

Mr. Paproski: You don't say that in your apartment.

Madam Speaker: I understand from the intervention made by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) that he is expressing a view on this subject. I want to say that I did not intend to rule from the written notices. That is not allowed by our rules. It is allowed in the rules or practices of the Parliament at Westminster, but not in our rules. I was not suggesting that I would walk into the House and rule on questions of privilege on the basis of the statements I had received. In the same manner, I do not suppose that the hon. member for Yukon wants to speak for all members who have submitted notices of questions of privilege. Therefore, I will ask them individually.

The only thing I was asking was whether these members would voluntarily withdraw their questions of privilege, taking into account they would be in quite great difficulty. I am giving them notice now that I will not accept an argument that has already been given and I will not accept any negative comments on my ruling—and I thank the hon. member for making the difference between the negative and the positive—It will be difficult to defend those questions of privilege because, as I said, they are similar.

I will ask the individual members if they want to withdraw. If they do not, that is their own decision. I will ask them individually if they wish to withdraw and then I will proceed. Does the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) want to withdraw?

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): With respect, Madam Speaker, I would normally comply immediately with a request from the Chair, but in this instance, and because I did not hear all of the rulings given yesterday, only part, I believe I have a couple of points that would be a niche in the rulings you have given. My comments will be very brief, lasting perhaps five minutes. I am hoping they will give a perspective that Your Honour would appreciate and which would help you in your over-all ruling.

Madam Speaker: I understand the hon. member does not want to withdraw. I want to remind the House that the circumstance that the Chair should have so many questions of privilege to hear is quite unprecedented. Never in the history of Parliament have we not been able to reach the orders of the day for such a long period. I am told that never in the history