

*Points of Order***POINT OF ORDER**

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the junior finance critic for the Liberal Party has taken exception to the word "deliberate" in a statement that I made during Question Period.

I withdraw the use of the word "deliberate" because it is an unparliamentary word, but I would ask him if he would make sure of his facts before using them in the House.

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[*Translation*]

PRIVILEGE

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD—TIME ALLOTMENT

Mrs. Marie Gibeau (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I rose for member's statements to draw your attention to the new time allotment during the Oral Question Period in an attempt to point out to you that this new procedure does have unfortunate consequences for Quebec members who support the government.

In my remarks I implied that you were responsible for this decision and, apparently, I used words which could be interpreted as a direct attack against you. I would like to withdraw the words which may have offended you, for I certainly did not intend to question your competence nor to attack you personally. Such was not my intention. I meant to draw your attention once again to a process which is the outcome of unfortunate decisions and which frustrates Quebec members who support the government.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for Bourassa.

[*English*]

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a brief point of order to draw to your attention what I think is a problem for this House.

It will be recalled that yesterday during Question Period the member for Cape Breton—East Richmond was called to order on his references to the Governor General, and he was asked to withdraw those statements, which of course he did.

The unfortunate thing is that even though those comments were withdrawn, they ended up on the *National* last night at ten o'clock.

Once again, I think this draws to the attention of this Chamber how important it is that remarks which breach the traditions of this House, which make reference to the Governor General or to other individuals, that may well be slanderous, or something that could be in some way offensive, have to be dealt with very quickly and very efficiently.

What happens as a result of that withdrawn statement is that it continues to stay on the record. The net result is that the statement that was played on the *National* last night is I think a poor reflection on the House and the Governor General.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to pursue this point of order at the moment. It can be dealt with at another time.

There is a question of privilege which must be heard, because it has precedence over other things. I just might say I am certainly prepared to discuss further the point of order raised both yesterday and today. Members can go back and look at *Hansard*. Yesterday I stated very clearly that it does not do very much good to correct a mistake afterwards, if the matter is out on the electronic transmission. I am not now referring to that particular incident, but any incident from either side of the House. It is there. There is no sudden surprise when it gets used by the media. That is another matter and I am quite prepared to discuss it further with hon. members. In the meantime I must give precedence to a question of privilege from the hon. member for Shefford.

[*Translation*]

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to recall what you said in the House on Tuesday, October 10, 1989, when the right hon. Leader of the Opposition at the time had asked you for a ruling on the government ad concerning the Goods and Services Tax.

In the course of your statement, Mr. Speaker, you said that there were two main aspects that should be considered: first of all, whether the ad would prejudice the future proceedings of the House and the Finance Committee, which had undertaken an examination of the technical paper, and second, whether it left the public to