

to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition to make his remarks brief.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, naturally I will be brief. I would like to begin by congratulating the Liberal party for once again arranging to have the New Democratic Party do its work for them by levying accusations at my colleagues and myself.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. Clark:** I would like to begin, Madam Speaker, by correcting what I am prepared to believe was—

**Mr. Rae:** You are a disgrace.

**Mr. Clark:** The silver spoon socialist is speaking again, Madam Speaker.

I will be as brief as the NDP interjections will allow me to be. If they will sit calmly in their seats while I put the facts on the record then I will do that with dispatch. Let me begin by correcting what I believe to have been an innocent error made by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) when he said, as reported at page 4957 of *Hansard*, in relation to my presence:

—the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) was here this morning. He was in the lobby, he heard my remarks when they were made—

That is not correct. I was in the House toward the end of his remarks, after he had made remarks relative to me. I did not have his remarks relative to me drawn to my attention until after that occasion, so he was wrong on that matter. I am sure he will accept my word that that was the case.

Second, I could not help but note that the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway, in characterizing his remarks about me today, said that he had criticized me for not speaking forcefully against separatism. Indeed, as has been read into the record, that is not what he said about me on that day, November 21. What he said was: "The leader of the Conservative party is aiding and abetting the new forces of separatism in western Canada." That is an accusation markedly different from an accusation that I am not speaking forcefully against separatism in western Canada or elsewhere.

I think the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway will agree that in his statements today he has misrepresented what he himself said in his statements on November 21. He has distorted those statements. Today he said I have been making statements that I understand separatism, understand the sources of separatism in western Canada, but have not been condemning that phenomenon. Madam Speaker, I have condemned that phenomenon on public platforms in Winnipeg, Vancouver, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Barrhead and Drumheller to date. I will continue to speak out for Canada and against separatism, and to try to divert the energies of western Canada into the counsel of a Canadian channel.

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

*Privilege—Mr. Waddell*

**Mr. Clark:** I would like to turn to the rather absurd position put forward by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent). He has suggested that the member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington) is a separatist because he proposes a new way—

**Mr. Broadbent:** I did not say that.

**Mr. Clark:** —in which members from one part of Canada can have their influence felt within Canada. Let me remind the Leader of the New Democratic Party that for years there have been recommendations that there should be a parliament of Atlantic Canada to allow the people of that region to make their cause known within the context of a united Canada.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Who said that?

**Mr. Clark:** No one accused those people, those advocates in royal commissions, or other advocates of maritime union, of being separatists, although by the logic of the New Democratic Party they are separatists, by the definition of their leader.

Ever since the concerns have arisen and developed in this country about the adequacy of our institutions to develop and reflect the regions of the country there have been a number of proposals put forward with respect to changes in Canadian institutions which could better reflect the nature of the country. There have been proposals for a House of the provinces. There has been a proposal by the Leader of the New Democratic Party himself to change our system to a system of proportional representation. He did that only after election results were in, not having had the foresight to do that beforehand.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Another distortion.

**Mr. Clark:** There have been a number of proposals to change the institutions of this country within the context of Canada, to ensure that the institutions of this country could better reflect the regional realities of this country and to stop the kind of temptation toward separatism, the kind of frustration which has so alarmed and caught attention and provoked the remarks and suggestion of the hon. member for Capilano. Indeed, if the New Democratic Party and their allies in the Liberal party are interested, the full quote of the hon. member for Capilano was:

Let's organize ourselves in the west to give us enough political clout and bargaining power at the table.

Well, Madam Speaker, at what table? Obviously, at the Canadian table.

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

**Mr. Clark:** What the member of Parliament for Capilano was proposing was not some device to take the people of his region out of Canada but, instead, some device to make the people of his region feel effective within Canada. That should be a preoccupation of all of us in this House of Commons.

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