

Mr. Hnatyshyn: To say that the Governor misled the House is, I suggest, Sir, using the privileges of Parliament to protect oneself against an action which, very simply, if stated outside the House of Commons and outside of the protection of the House of Commons would be libelous in nature and subject to the commencement of legal proceedings, in my estimation.

Mr. Gauthier: What a lawyer!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: It has been the custom here for Hon. Members of this House, when they have uttered words which in effect constitute an attack upon a senior government official—with whom the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition has had personal contact in his ministerial capacity—to do the honourable thing; stand in their place and withdraw the offending words and apologize, in this case, to the Governor of the Bank of Canada. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to find that there has been a breach in terms of Beauchesne and to ask the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his remarks and apologize to Mr. Bouey.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the point of order raised by the House Leader. He did give me verbal notice of his intent to do this as the House began proceedings this afternoon. What I said was, and I quote:

The question really relates to the fact that the House was misled, including this side of the House, when we supported the Minister of Finance in the original bail-out Bill for that purpose. That is what it gets down to—the question of incompetence and the House being misled by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and indeed, the Governor of the Bank of Canada.

Those are the words which are being challenged. Let me go to the technical point first. If one looks at Citation 320 in Beauchesne's Fifth Edition we find, in looking at the word "misled", that it has been consistently held by the House that it must be "deliberately misled".

I submit to Your Honour that if you go further to Citation 321, which relates to protected persons, that is to say not just Hon. Members of the House but those persons traditionally protected, you find they are a group of individuals commonly referred to as "those of high official station". I am not going to argue for the purposes of your ruling, Mr. Speaker, whether the Governor of the Bank of Canada is of high official station or not, but I will assume he is. I will concede that point. However, I submit to Your Honour that the same judgment you have to apply concerning misleading statements or unparliamentary language regarding Members of this House should also be applied against protected persons. In other words, I used the word "misled"; I did not use the words "deliberately misled". I also want to refer Your Honour to Citation 323(2) regarding unparliamentary language, which reads:

● (1510)

The proper time to raise such a point of order is when the words are used and not afterwards.

Even if there were a point of order, it is already too late. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) points out that it was

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challenged by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) yesterday, but not on a point of order. I also refer Your Honour to Citation 324(2), which reads:

An expression which is deemed to be unparliamentary today does not necessarily have to be deemed unparliamentary next week.

Let us get down to the substance. What I said to the House, and the tone of my questions to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, who ducked, and to the Minister of State for Finance (Mrs. McDougall), was that when they came before the House in March and then in April to ask for the support of the House for the original bail-out of \$255 million, we on this side of the House were assured—and the Liberal Party agreed to the bail-out only on the basis of the assurance—that it would render the bank viable.

Mr. Dick: Where?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Let me just cite the words of the Minister of Finance. This is the issue, and I am going right to the substance, Mr. Speaker. This is what the Minister said on March 25, 1985.

An Hon. Member: This is no point of order.

Mr. Kaplan: You asked for it.

Mr. Chrétien: You raised it.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I am now saying that not only did I not use the words "deliberately misled", but there was a misleading. This is what the Minister of Finance said, as reported at page 3321 of *Hansard*:

So I think that is a very broad support program for the bank indicating the confidence that not just the Government of Canada but the Province of Alberta, as well as the Canadian chartered banks, have in the future viability of the Canadian Commercial Bank—

They have confidence in the future viability of the Canadian Commercial Bank. We took that assurance. The Minister of State for Finance said on the same day, as reported at page 3310 of *Hansard*:

—an agreement was reached this morning . . . which will ensure the long-term viability of this Edmonton-based bank.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what did the Governor say?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Penner: He is the Leader of the Opposition!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): He is a fool nonetheless.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will know that I have a duty to remind the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) that I need to find where this argument ties into the point of order. I therefore—

Mr. Lapierre: Well, listen to him first.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) will please bear with me. Therefore, since I sense that he is attempting to reintroduce into this discussion the question of a fact with regard to a misleading statement, which