

Points of Order

speeches. While they were in their place, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you—and I look for your guidance in this matter—that they have cast aspersions upon all hon. members, particularly within my own party.

It is rather interesting to note that when the Deputy Prime Minister raised in his place this very, very important point of order—and he talked about certain comments made by an hon. member in the other House—I did not hear the hon. Deputy Prime Minister or the right hon. Prime Minister, at any time inside or outside this Chamber, stand in their place and defend Her Majesty the Queen when hon. members in the back row were renouncing their oath to the Queen. Where was the Deputy Prime Minister? I have never seen such hypocrisy, such two-faced—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond has made a point. I do not think it is a point of order and it is not a point of privilege, but he has made a point.

Mr. Dingwall: My question in terms of seeking direction from the Chair is the following: Why is the appearance allowed to go on and unchecked for members opposite, particularly the right hon. Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, not only to make comments but to make speeches and to lecture those of us on this side and on that side of the House, and we are not allowed to have similar rights in order to respond to the most deceitful arguments ever.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier did have the floor, and extensively, on behalf of the Liberal Party.

The hon. member for Hamilton East on a point of order.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): I rise on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

The Prime Minister, in developing his strategy to save his doomed GST here in the House, suggested that I was criticizing the Deputy Prime Minister for raising a point about the Queen in English. He beat his breast and made a wonderful extemporaneous speech about a person is a Canadian in any language, leaving the impression that I somehow felt one language was better or worse than the other.

[*Translation*]

I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the difficulty I have with the prime minister's point of view is that he was perfectly prepared to get very close to the Queen in the English language, but not in French.

The point is not the choice of language, but—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may have a complaint, but this is clearly a matter for debate.

If there is a question of privilege, it is very difficult for the Chair to find one in this exchange.

[*English*]

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me what we have been subjected to as members of Parliament in the House is an abuse of the rules of the House by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister to further their own political agenda.

Yesterday, during Question Period my colleague, the member for York Centre, began to make a statement about Senator Pat Carney concerning her statement about another senator, Senator Con DiNino. Before he was able to complete his statement—

Mr. Speaker: It is true that I interrupted the hon. member. There was also an exchange afterward. If the hon. member is raising that particular incident of another day as a question of privilege or a point of order then perhaps I ought to hear it. It seemed to me that the matter was settled and I indicated that I may very well have interrupted the hon. member more rapidly than I should have, but that is the end of the issue. Otherwise, it just becomes a reargument about whether or not the Speaker made an error. If I made an error, I made it. I cannot undo that, but I do not think it is appropriate to be raising that again today.

With respect to what happened this afternoon, I tried to make it very clear. One can argue about the issue and there is lots of argument about it, as is obvious, but basically what happened is that consent was asked for a motion and consent was not given. That is the procedural situation, and I tried to be as even-handed as I could be.

The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.

Mr. Nunziata: If I may finish—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South—Weston.