

*Privilege—Mr. Lewis*

**Mr. Speaker:** I should advise the House that we have some questions of privilege to deal with. I will hear the Minister first.

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**PRIVILEGE**

## ALLEGED REMARKS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board) and Acting President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege arises out of Question Period. I gave you a letter indicating that we are going to review the “blues” and the comments of the Hon. Leader of the NDP in his first question to see whether he used the word “deliberate”, or if there were words used which convey the allegation of a deliberate misleading of the House, which would constitute a question of privilege.

I would add that the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca (Mr. Barrett) used the same type of language.

The Leader of the NDP was often in the grey area of privilege and was in fact once thrown out of the House for using the term “liar”. We want to eliminate that from the debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair is in some difficulty here. The Hon. Minister rose on a question of privilege. As I understood what he said, he is going to review the “blues”. That may well be. He sent me a note to that effect, as he told the House. However, until I have an allegation in front of me, which I do not have at the moment, I find it difficult to proceed with the question of privilege.

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I say to my hon. friend who has just raised the point that I recall vividly the incident he refers to. According to the rules, having said what I said and the Prime Minister having done what he did, everyone in the country knew, but because of the quaintness of our rules we are prohibited from saying so in blunt words from time to time.

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

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** You are above the rules, then?

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to say to the Hon. Member for Oshawa that I am much indebted to him for refraining from saying so.

**Mr. Broadbent:** As always, Your Honour, your observations are pertinent and appropriate.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Double-standard Broadbent.

**Mr. Broadbent:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs is vibrating again.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Take a valium, Joe.

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**PRIVILEGE**

## DE GRANDPRÉ COMMISSION INTERIM REPORT

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege that I want to raise. It is quite serious. I gave the Prime Minister’s Office notice this morning.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Another double standard?

**Mr. Broadbent:** In response to a question from myself about his blue ribbon committee, in which all Canadian workers are supposed to have so much confidence, indicating that the information we had was that this committee was not to report until June, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said at page 49 of *Hansard*:

Nobody is talking about waiting until June and the fact is that Mr. de Grandpré is scheduled to meet with the Ministers responsible as early as Friday of this week to discuss an interim report.

He said that to me, and he also said in reply to a similar question from the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca (Mr. Barrett):

“So if the Hon. Member would kindly wait until Friday and then for the final report—”

The clear implication was there was an interim report coming today—

**Mr. Crosbie:** There was no such implication.

**Mr. Broadbent:** —that was going to be discussed and the workers did not have to wait until June. Action was going to be taken on Friday. That is the truth.

It is not simply our interpretation because the senior economist of the committee responded, and presumably he was responding to ordinary language as used by the