

Mr. Volpe: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I was unavoidably detained, but had I been here for both votes I would have voted with my caucus.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond.

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POINTS OF ORDER

CONDUCT IN CHAMBER

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw to the attention of the House a subject matter which I believe to be of great importance. The hon. member for Burlington made an apology earlier and it is totally accepted by the hon. member for Hamilton East.

I wish to talk about something which is beyond that. I ask the Chair for direction. I make a suggestion to the Chair, in view of the broader issue, for the Chair to take under active consideration the prospects of meeting with representatives of the three national parties, as well as members who are independent in this Chamber. I ask that the Chair sit down with those members at a time later this week or early next week and have a discussion with regard to some of the conduct of members on all sides of the House, as it relates to how females are treated in this Chamber.

• (1550)

It is becoming more and more apparent each and every day that sometimes there is hissing and sometimes there are certain catcalls, certain expressions which are not appreciated. Nor do we believe that they should be put forward on the floor of the House of Commons.

All of us, from time to time, in expressing our views may or may not use certain colourful language. There has to be a restriction and that restriction, Sir, I think, must be administered by you, the impartial person in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that you reflect on my suggestion—perhaps other members opposite or, indeed, other parties might wish to make a comment or two—but do so with some dispatch, and come back to this House and provide some rules and guidance on that particular specific issue.

Mr. Speaker, for too long I think those of us in this Chamber have not accorded the kind of treatment that

human beings, whether they be female or male, ought to have in this Chamber. I respectfully request that you give serious consideration to this request.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully to the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond, who kindly and courteously advised me earlier that he would rise on this matter. I draw it to members' attention that he has been very careful in what he said. This is not a reopening of the incident of yesterday which has been dealt with today.

I wish to say to hon. members that I would be very prepared to meet with members of each of the parties in the House and others for a discussion on this matter and, perhaps, on a wider range of matters that arise from it. I thank the hon. member for bringing this to my attention. My office will be in touch with his office and others in the Chamber.

The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands on a point of order, who has very patiently waited until this moment to bring it to our attention.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): I rise on a point of order. I know the hard working Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader bears a tremendous burden in this House, but I think his zealotness has carried him a bit too far.

I looked at *Hansard* and reviewed the answers to the questions that he so kindly provided in the House yesterday. They were numerous. I noticed that printed with each answer in *Hansard* is a statement of the time that some person took to prepare the answer and then the parliamentary secretary has deigned to provide us with the cost of providing the reply.

That is very, very nice, but I suggest that there is an ulterior motive here and that is to suggest that somehow parliamentarians, particularly opposition members, who after all seem to be the only inquisitive ones in this House, put forward questions and that somehow they are wasting public money in requesting information from the government. With respect, that is not so. In fact, the answers themselves give away greater evidence of waste than any cost of any of the answers provided. I could cite those but I would not want to do that on a point of order. It might not be fair.

I would ask the parliamentary secretary to, first of all, look at the answers he provides. Second, I ask the Speaker, since we are not allowed to put partisan