

Points of Order

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I was rising earlier in the same vein, not so much to comment on the language itself, but to say that it is not up to any individual member, even if that member is the Prime Minister, to decide what language is acceptable or unacceptable to the House. The Prime Minister, and it may have been gracious of him to do so, said that he was not bothered by the language that was used. I hate to see the precedent set by which individual members decide what is acceptable.

It is up to the House, through you, Mr. Speaker, to decide what is acceptable. I would hope that you would consider some way of establishing that to be the case. I understand the difficulty that we were all in at that particular moment, but I would hope that we would not let this become a precedent.

If members use unacceptable language, that is unacceptable language whether or not a particular member is prepared to accept it. I am not even sure whether in this case the language itself or the word itself should be debated but what I am looking at here is the procedural point of who is it, where is the locus of authority with respect to what is regarded as acceptable and not acceptable. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to take that under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I can assist the House. I have listened very carefully to interventions from both colleagues who have been in this place a long time.

First of all, I have ruled that the comments that were made are unacceptable and they are unparliamentary and they are to be withdrawn.

Second, if they are not withdrawn, then I shall find my own way to discipline that particular member.

They are absolutely unacceptable. The hon. member knows they are unacceptable. If the hon. member wants to rise in his place and address this Chamber again, the hon. member is going to have to withdraw.

VOTING PROCEDURE

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, I want to raise a point of order, the same as the member for Papineau—Saint-Michel.

My understanding is that *Hansard* is not printed yet because there were mistakes in recording the votes. Apparently some of the members who were twinned appear as having voted. This is why I support the idea that we should have a change in voting patterns and we should go into the 21st century and have electronic voting, as was suggested by the McGrath commission.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you are going to look into it. I am sure that you will do it in your wisdom.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure I can share will all members of the House the particular recommendation of the McGrath commission to which the hon. member for Calgary Northeast refers which has been considered at length.

The hon. government House leader indicated perhaps with electronic voting things could be expeditiously carried out. As your Speaker, I am quite prepared to do that if, of course, there is sufficient disposition in that direction.

I would say to the hon. member for Calgary Northeast the proposition is not quite as simple as it may seem. He may want to discuss that with me and perhaps others in greater detail. Certainly the hon. member raises a matter of importance to the House which was dealt with in the sense that a recommendation was made by the McGrath commission.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Mr. Speaker, on the same point raised by the hon. member for Papineau—Saint-Michel, I would like to say that we were accused of using obstructive tactics last night when we asked for the votes. We did that to force people who hid behind their party to come out and show themselves. It was the purpose of the votes as it is always the case. When members ask for a roll call in the House, it is for this reason.

Last night, we unfortunately witnessed here an incredible circus. One would have really thought it was the far west with cowboys. It was awful to watch the circus which took place here. I do not know whether you watched it on television, but it was incredible. We saw people with no tie and no decorum, while, as far as we are concerned, we are repeatedly told to respect this House.