

*Point of Order—Mr. Nickerson*

**POINT OF ORDER**

ALLEGED UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, last night a rather unfortunate occurrence arose when one Hon. Member of this House accused another Hon. Member of being treasonous. I refer you to page 10750 of *Hansard*. The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) is quoted as having said:

However, I want to say that what I have been reading is tantamount to treason coming from the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) when he speaks about the crustaceous denizens of the other place. It is tantamount to treason.

Immediately after that was said I rose and brought it to the attention of the Deputy Speaker who was in the Chair at the time. Unfortunately, his attention had not been particularly focused when the words were uttered and the matter was allowed to slide.

I would refer Your Honour to other occasions when this has been found to be unparliamentary terminology. That was the case on November 19, 1957, as shown at page 1248 of *Hansard*, and also on July 14, 1959, as shown at page 6015 of *Hansard*.

I wonder if it might be possible for you, Sir, to review *Hansard*, the transactions of last evening, and make a determination of whether or not what was said was unparliamentary. If it is found to be unparliamentary, then I ask that you request the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt to withdraw those remarks.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson) has asked the Chair to consider *Hansard* and the words expressed and the context in which they were expressed. I most certainly will do so and report back to the House at an appropriate moment.

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[*Translation*]

**PRIVILEGE**

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN TO LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND  
IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE—MEMBER FOR LASALLE—  
MOTION FOR REFERENCE TO ELECTIONS,  
PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

**Mr. Claude Lanthier (LaSalle):** Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to respond to two questions of privilege.

[*English*]

I think two questions of privilege were raised concerning the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration. I would like to answer both those matters. Would you like me to start with the question of privilege of the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), or the one put forward by the Hon. Member for

La Prairie (Mr. Jourdenais)? Both of them were raised at quarter past three which seems to be designated now as "let's hit Lanthier time." Which one would you like me to raise first?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think out of an early morning generosity of spirit, I can indicate to the Hon. Member that the choice is his.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lanthier:** Mr. Speaker, I will deal with the more recent of the two before dealing with the question raised last week.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the question of privilege raised by the Hon. Member for La Prairie (Mr. Jourdenais) last Tuesday, when I was temporarily absent from the House because of a previous engagement in the beautiful riding of LaSalle—which I could have postponed, by the way, if the elementary parliamentary courtesies had been observed and I had been given as little less as one half-hour's notice—I feel it is my duty to set the record straight and refute some very frivolous allegations that were made in an unfortunate debate the principal party concerned was unable to attend because he had not been asked or even been advised that it would take place.

On October 6, at a regular weekly meeting at the Department of Public Works attended by the Minister, the Deputy Minister, the Chief of Staff and senior officials concerned by the meeting's agenda, I said goodbye to all these people after announcing my resignation as parliamentary secretary.

The same morning, when I got back to my office, I dictated a short letter of resignation and asked my senior assistant to get in touch with the Prime Minister's Office to explain my decision, in line with the approach suggested by my colleagues for seeking the candidacy for the position of Chairman of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Labour, Employment and Immigration.

On the 7th, I signed my letter to the Prime Minister's Office and received an acknowledgment a few days later. In any case, copies were sent here immediately by one of my assistants while another assistant phoned the debate through so I could listen on my car phone on my way to Montreal.

In the course of this debate it was also alleged I was being paid as a parliamentary secretary even after my election as chairman of a standing committee of the House of Commons. There is really no problem here, Mr. Speaker. The appropriate adjustments will be made as soon as our payroll system has been advised of the status changes affecting my salary, if that has not already been done. There is certainly nothing out of the ordinary about all this. I would also like to make it clear that my business and personal assets as well as my wife's assets were still in a blind trust, as a cautionary measure. My paychecks and various allowances are regularly deposited to my wife's bank account by my assistant, in complete confidence, after a cursory check by me.