

*Privilege*

and the member who was in the Chair last evening. I would like to read three short paragraphs because I think they capture the message that was probably conveyed by television to constituents in the country and their sense of disappointment in that behaviour. The first paragraph begins thus:

As I was watching television last night (Wednesday, Oct. 30), I saw a high placed politician in a certain country abandon the use of words and take up the use of force and bullying in an attempt to get his point across.

Paragraph 3 continues:

Instead I was watching the parliamentary channel and witnessed you, sir, take the tradition, honour and dignity of the House of Commons and trample it.

This is a letter to the member for Port Moody—Coquitlam and the fifth paragraph of that same letter reads:

After barracking at the Acting Speaker, the Hon. Charles DeBlois in a bid for attention, you stormed up the centre aisle, like a spoiled child who doesn't get his way would do, and used force against an Officer of the House.

• (1030)

In my remarks last Friday, I spoke about the escalation of verbal violence in the Chamber and the need to bring it to a halt, the need for all members of this Chamber to support the Chair in the enforcement of our rules and, Mr. Speaker, I did not in my wildest imagination think that we would be facing, just a few days later, the use of actual force in this Chamber to attempt to put one person's will against the majority of the House and against the institutions of the House.

I simply want to signal that I think the only course of action available to us, if we care about the issue of contempt of this House, is to support the motion as moved by the member for Parkdale—High Park.

**Mr. Speaker:** As I have often done in the past, I perhaps can assist the House by indicating that I have the facts. I am fairly familiar with the procedural law. I know the hon. member would not need, necessarily, to repeat of what has gone on before, but I certainly will hear him.

**Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, much of what I would have to say would be repetitive, and I would not want to impose that repetition on hon. members in this House.

I must associate myself with the motion presented by my hon. colleague from Parkdale—High Park. He has put it very eloquently, very cogently and in a framework that is representative of the kinds of manners that we are accustomed to in this House, that is that reason and dialogue and negotiation prevail in all instances.

Last night we had a circumstance, a situation where one of the members abandoned those kind of traditions and imposed his will by force than by reason and by dialogue.

I want to just reaffirm something that my hon. colleague from Renfrew indicated. That action was not only inappropriate because to suggest that it would be inappropriate would diminish the gravity of the offence.

It is an offence not merely upon the Speaker and the Mace, but against all members is this House by virtue of the authority that all members in this place rest in both the Chair and the Mace, and other symbols of the citizens' right to have his and her views expressed and to have those views decided upon.

In closing, I do not think that this House can do anything less than to support the motion of my colleague from Parkdale—High Park so that we can restore to this House, not only the decorum but the appropriateness of the mechanisms that we need to have in place in order to arrive at decisions without lapsing and collapsing into some of the scenarios that we have seen in some far eastern Parliaments.

**Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River):** Mr. Speaker, I rise briefly on this same point.

In terms of the decorum of the House of Commons and what we have seen happen in the last few weeks, I know that from my experience in high school as well as parenting that what we need to look at here is the whole idea of consequences.

When there is some behaviour that is inappropriate, or if we are looking at some wrongdoing or an action that is not appropriate, we need to look very specifically at the idea of consequences: What is it that will happen to me if I misbehave in the home, at school or in the work place, or in fact in this institution, the House of Commons. I would just raise two points before we move on. First of all, the idea of consequences must fit the seriousness of