

something to his present knowledge so he will not engage in these kinds of sordid activities in the House and would, in the future, respond to questions reasonably.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. minister rising to add something to this exchange?

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I do not mind this exchange one little bit. I simply say to the hon. member he is willing always to dish it out and expects it to be accepted and so—

Mr. McCurdy: Does that make it okay to be a liar?

Mr. Epp: So when we dish it back—

Mr. Speaker: I took what the minister said a few minutes ago to be a withdrawal of anything that may have offended the hon. member.

Mr. Epp: The House heard the exchange that the hon. member just made and I would ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South—Weston on this same point. I am wondering if there is any need for the hon. member to intervene. The minister has made it very clear he has withdrawn.

Mr. Epp: I was inaccurate. I withdrew it. The comment he just finished making is unparliamentary. A number of members in the House heard it and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: The minister has just addressed the Chair and said that some remark which the hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair made, not at the time when the hon. member was recognized but made it anyway, was unparliamentary and has asked that the hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair withdraw the remark.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, what I said and what the minister heard was my question and only a question: “Is it okay to be a liar in Parliament?” Surely that is not—

Mr. Speaker: If the suggestion the hon. member is making by way of rhetorical question is that the hon. minister is lying, that is improper and the hon. member should withdraw it.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the hon. minister said that we could not take it and if he cannot take it—

Privilege

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. I am asking the hon. member to support the rules and conventions of the House. That kind of remark, whether it is in a preliminary, a preamble or in a question which leads to the only implication one could take is that it is being suggested that one member or another is lying, is improper. The hon. member knows that and I would ask him to support the conventions of the House and withdraw it.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, I abundantly support the conventions in this House. If you will recall, I will repeat, the minister said that we could not take it and I said: “Is it okay to be a liar as well?”

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. The hon. member has an option. The hon. member can stay in defiance of the request of the Chair to withdraw a statement which, in my opinion, went too far. The hon. member knows what his duty and obligation are. They are to withdraw it. If the hon. member wants to have a row somewhere else with the minister, then go somewhere else and have it.

In the meantime, the hon. member’s obligation is to withdraw.

The Chair has asked the hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair to withdraw the remark.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the question: “Is it okay to be a liar in this House”, which the minister did not respond to.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I was trying to rise on this same point of privilege, but I understand it has now been concluded.

I also enter my own point of privilege. When I was trying to rise at an earlier time, you said you were going to come back to the House *vis-a-vis* the question of whether parliamentary secretaries can ask questions in this House.

The point of privilege I am rising on is that I tried to be recognized in conformity with the tradition in this House that before you set a matter aside, you hear from all three parties. I was rising to speak on behalf of my party as our deputy House leader to that point of order before you set it aside. I could not seem to get recognized and I