

doing something right, with starts up 200 per cent in the first two months of this year compared with last year.

**Mr. Darling:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House whether the Anti-Inflation Board is considering a modification of the profit guidelines for the benefit of the housing industry and, if so, can the minister tell the House when he expects clarification from the Anti-Inflation Board?

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, this question is properly for the Minister of Finance, but I am aware that discussions are going on, with a report expected very shortly. I cannot say anything more; it is the province of my colleague.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

COMMENT MADE IN YESTERDAY'S DEBATE

**Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, I only had the opportunity of giving you notice of my question of privilege when I entered the House because the French edition of *Hansard* was not available before 10:45. I therefore rise on a question of privilege pursuant to Standing Order 35 which reads as follows:

... No member shall use offensive words against either House, or against any member thereof.

So, referring to yesterday's *Hansard*, on page 12386, one can read the words used by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin)—and I am very polite in calling him the hon. member for Lotbinière—who used offensive words against me, calling me a coward. The Acting Speaker at the time, the hon. member for Mercier (Mr. Boulanger), deferred until today the decision on the question of privilege I raised yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, page 117, citation 133, reads as follows:

When the Speaker takes notice of any expression as personal and disorderly, and tending to introduce heat and confusion, and calls upon the offending member to explain, it is the duty of the latter immediately to explain or retract the offensive expressions, and to apologize to the House for the breach of order, in terms large and liberal enough both to satisfy the House, and the member of whom the offensive expressions were used. The Speaker's demand usually produces the required explanation, at once;

Mr. Speaker, those same words which appear on page 12387 of yesterday's *Hansard* were endorsed by the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle)—I think he gave up since he is not here, this morning, Mr. Speaker.

To help you make your ruling, I should like to read the definition of the word "coward" in the Shorter Larousse dictionary. It means a person who lacks courage—

**Mr. Matte:** Right on!

**Mr. Guay (Lévis):**—fearful, shameful. I shall also ask the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) to withdraw when I have completed my remarks, because he just said:

*Privilege—Mr. R. Guay*

Right on. I continue the definition: ...base and contemptible...

**Mr. Matte:** This is the right definition!

**Mr. Guay (Lévis):** According to the Quillet dictionary, the definition of coward is: lacking in energy, funky, contemptible. "To give up" means to let go, surrender, abandon, and that is no doubt what the hon. member for Joliette is doing this morning: abandon his friends once again. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Joliette has already abandoned the Progressive Conservative Party for the party to which he has returned today. Maybe he has already left the Conservative Party, Mr. Speaker, to run for the leadership of the Union nationale in Quebec. Last night, when he supported the Social Creditor member, I wondered if he was not becoming a Social Creditor.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the comments made last night by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin), with the support of the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), I would ask that these comments be withdrawn and the question of privilege which I raised last night be maintained. I would not make the same kind of remarks as regards the hon. member for Lotbinière because I have been a member of this House for the last 14 years, I have always respected other hon. members and I do not think my colleagues and myself are cowards.

Mr. Speaker, I would therefore ask that the hon. member withdraw his remarks immediately, as provided in Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms. Should you rule his comments as not being unparliamentary, I would in turn call each of those two members, one of whom is not here, coward, fearful, base and contemptible.

**Mr. Matte:** It is cowardly to make such comments in the absence of the hon. member.

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, it is never easy to deal with a question of privilege. However, in this case concerning the hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Guay), the situation is quite clear. Here is what is provided in citation 113, page 102 of the fourth edition of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, and I quote:

Members often raise so-called "questions of privilege" on matters which should be dealt with as personal explanations or corrections, either in the debates or the proceedings of the House.

And the citation goes on to say:

Wilful disobedience to Orders and Rules of Parliament in the exercise of its constitutional functions; insults and obstructions during debate are breaches of the privileges of the House.

And I would draw Your Honour's attention to the following words: insults during debate, which I did, according to the hon. member for Lévis or obstructions during debate, which I blame the hon. member for Lévis for doing when he prevented us last night from doing our work pursuant to Standing Orders. Therefore I think we must set the facts in their true light.

In what circumstances were those remarks made? After a motion was introduced to silence the opposition by allowing for a two hours maximum debate, I rose for a 10 minute period as every other member. I did not support the government's motion, and neither did any other member of the opposition. I said so frankly and clearly. I realize that