

Points of Order

The second point I want to make is that I would like to have the bill I asked for on October 3 so I can pay it, because I do not want to be seen by people as sending something considered political even if it is in *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: I shall do the very best I can to respond to the hon. member for South West Nova.

[*Translation*]

COMMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER—REQUEST AS TO WHETHER RULING WILL BE MADE

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, I would like to know when you intend to respond to this point of order. You have been postponing a ruling on the kind of language used in the House for at least six weeks. Are the words “hypocrite” and “insignifiant” parliamentary, yes or no?

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I will give a ruling, but the hon. member will withdraw what he said about the Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plamondon: I do not know whether what I said was parliamentary because you have not yet given your decision. But as soon as the Prime Minister withdraws, I will.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I regret very much, but that is not good enough. The hon. member clearly hurled an insult straight at the Speaker. The hon. member’s duty is to withdraw that. I will come back with the ruling. I am seized of it.

I am asking the hon. member to do his duty to this Chamber which, after all, is something that is an obligation to all of us.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plamondon: Which terms does the Speaker want me to retract?

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member suggested that the Chair was a hypocrite.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plamondon: I said that the Prime Minister—I was repeating what the Prime Minister said to the parliamentary House leader of the Bloc. I asked you whether, if I were to call you—

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: First of all, I am seized with having to decide whether what the Prime Minister said in the context he said it was unparliamentary, and I will do that. I am telling the hon. member that what he just said to the Chair—forget that it is John Fraser; it is the Chair of this place—was unparliamentary. It is appropriate that the hon. member get up and courteously say: Mr. Speaker, if it was unparliamentary, I was excited or I was angry but I withdraw.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plamondon: In the same context in which the Prime Minister said those words, I withdraw the terms I believe are unparliamentary, namely the words hypocrite and insignificant. I used them in referring to you in order to get the Chair to apply the same decision to the Prime Minister. I therefore withdraw the terms hypocrite and insignificant which I used in referring to you, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[*English*]

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, that is not good enough. That is not good enough for the Chair, nor for the occupant of the present chair, Mr. Fraser. The hon. member should withdraw his remarks unequivocally.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make it clear that I share the views of the House leader of the Official Opposition. I think we are having some difficult times here. We are having some difficult times in terms of this institution and the respect the public has for it and has for us.

The hon. member made an allegation, used unparliamentary remarks toward the Chair, and if he has any modest remnant of concern for this institution I would ask that he withdraw unequivocally.

[*Translation*]

Mr. François Gérin (Mégantic—Compton—Stansstead): Mr. Speaker, perhaps we could avoid having a debate today and leave it until after Christmas, some time in February, until the first week we get back on February 3. We have waited almost a month and a half, and I think we can at least wait until after Christmas in order to avoid a parliamentary crisis on these issues. We are sovereigntists and we have a right to be sovereigntists here.