

Privilege—Mr. Roberts

will entertain the second privilege later on, but not at the moment.

Mr. Anguish: Madam Speaker, these guests of mine who were ejected from the gallery are all treaty Indians. They came from the reserves of Dillon, Ministikwan, Joseph Bighead, Waterhen Lake, LaLoche, Fond du Lac, Flying Dust, Onion Lake, Thunderchild, Salteaux Reserve, Moosomin Reserve, Mudie Lake Reserve, Patuanak or the English River Band and Loon Lake. People from these bands were affected or will be affected within the next couple of days. The reason they were ejected from the gallery is because they were not wearing ties. I submit that ties are not—

Madam Speaker: I must interrupt the hon. member. The matter of the galleries in this House is one of my responsibilities. The hon. member may come to my chambers and discuss any grievance he has concerning the matter.

I would like to say, though, that yesterday when these people asked to be admitted to my gallery, I had already begun the parade to come into the House of Commons and, therefore, I was not consulted on the matter, and someone applied the rule very strictly and decided that they could not admit these people to that particular gallery because they were not wearing ties. We do admit to the gallery people of other nationalities who do not wear ties. Had I been aware of the matter when it occurred, I would have allowed these people to come into my gallery. I do apologize profusely for what happened.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anguish: Madam Speaker, I understand that these people were ejected from your gallery. I think that it should also be the decision of this House that an apology be extended to these people.

Mr. Blais: She just did.

Mr. Anguish: If these people are still in the gallery, they should be allowed to come in to the members' gallery now.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member please come to my chambers later on to discuss this matter.

● (1520)

MR. ROBERTS—REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF LANGUAGE USED BY HON. MEMBER FOR VANCOUVER SOUTH

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker—

Mr. Waddell: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Roberts: I regret any explanation received—

Mr. Waddell: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member please resume his seat. I shall now recognize the hon. Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the

Environment (Mr. Roberts) providing he is not speaking on the question of privilege on which I have just ruled.

Mr. Roberts: No, Madam Speaker, I believe I am not. I am referring not to the question of privilege which was raised by the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Domm), but I believe that in his comments the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) did say that I had misled the House; and I believe he said—although I would have to check—that my comments were dishonest and shabby, which would, I think, constitute a question of privilege for me. It is on that point that I rise. I believe that is unparliamentary language which should be withdrawn.

The hon. member said that he had taken a decision in this matter and that I was pretending to take a new stance. I have never denied the decision was taken. I have made it clear to the House and I have made it clear outside the House that the previous decision was under review, so my comments in the House on that point have not been misleading.

The hon. member also commented on the length of time taken for me to review this matter. I think the record will bear out my following statement, and that is that it took him longer to take that decision when the matter was brought to his attention than it has taken for me to deal with it up to this point.

I think the language the hon. member used is unparliamentary and I would wish to see it withdrawn.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I have not heard anything in the intervention made by the hon. member that I felt was unparliamentary. However, since the minister has raised the matter, I shall check *Hansard* and act accordingly.

MR. WADDELL—PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS—IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR HANDICAPPED

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I have another question of privilege but before I raise it I may say, with great respect, that Your Honour referred to other people getting into the gallery without ties as people of other nationalities. May I remind Your Honour that these people are Canadians, native Canadians, important Canadians—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Waddell:—and we should not let that go on the record.

I might say with respect to that point, Madam Speaker, that I too had a delegation of high school students from Kelowna. The girls were allowed in the gallery because they do not wear ties, whereas the boys had to go into the ladies' gallery because they did not have ties. I shall not pursue the matter, but perhaps we can pursue it privately and clean up our gallery act in the House of Commons to be in tune with the modern world.

I rise now on a question of privilege that is much more pleasant, Madam Speaker. On November 26, 1979, I moved in