

Privilege

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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POINT OF ORDER

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. During Question Period, my friend from Burin—St. George's made a comment which I think he would like the opportunity to withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: I have not heard complaints about the remark. The hon. member may be able to repeat it.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, if I had said something which offended the right hon. member I would be the first to withdraw it. I would like to see *Hansard* to see exactly what I said. At the time, the right hon. member was saying that we did not support the United Nations and that is not true. We do support the United Nations. We do not support kowtowing to Bush.

Mr. Speaker: I will look at *Hansard* and examine the record, if there is one.

Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I heard distinctly what the member from Burin—St. George's said. He called the external affairs minister a liar twice. He should have the courage to stand up in his place and withdraw.

If the hon. member said that, he should withdraw. If the hon. member wants to see whether it appears in *Hansard*, I am prepared to wait.

There is no question that if it was said, it should be withdrawn.

Mr. Simmons: Clearly, I do not know what all the fuss is about. I called a lie a lie. If it is not parliamentary, I withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: There are a lot of different ways to say things in here, but the *raison d'être* for a rule against unparliamentary language is a very simple one.

It is based on the fact that when it is used, it creates disorder. As a consequence we do not have free speech.

That is why the rule is there, and hon. members have to support it.

It is not just for the Speaker to go through a list in Beauséne and remind hon. members of what, from time to time, has been ruled unparliamentary.

In supporting it, if somebody has become excessive, a withdrawal has to be a complete and unequivocal withdrawal, or we are not supporting the convention. I would ask the hon. member to assure the House that his withdrawal is unequivocal.

Mr. Simmons: I thank you, Sir. The withdrawal is unequivocal.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member.

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[*Translation*]

PRIVILEGE

OFFICE OF THE MEMBER FOR RICHELIEU

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, I sent you a letter raising a problem, because my rights and privileges as a member were violated in an exceptional and unacceptable way last Sunday, that is yesterday.

In my absence, with no authorization or consent from me, my confidential files and everything I had in my office were taken. My office was plundered. It was opened without permission, without my giving the keys, without my staff being warned, without notifying me. All my documents and personal effects and those of my staff were taken away to another building, without my consent.

My rights as a member are in your hands. As Speaker of the House, will you let such a thing be done to me? I never received a notice from you to change my office. What I asked for in writing—I wrote to you a month ago—I never received a reply, except an acknowledgment of receipt. I therefore want to go over the facts, because I think it is not only a violation of my rights as a member of Parliament but also contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms for people to raid a member's office without a warrant and without him being there.