

Point of Order—Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra)

the answers are the Chair's responsibility—neither the questions nor the answers. Order, please.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, if the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition takes some offence at me trying to speak French, I take exception to that. He should know better. That is a divisive and racist kind of statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please, the Hon. Member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid), and Hon. Members over here. Order, please. Can we go on? Order, please. The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition wishes to raise a question of privilege?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I think the House Leader imputed absolutely false motives to what I suggested about the farce. The farce was that there was a prearranged question and a prearranged answer, either in French or English, that took up the time of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The right hon. gentleman will resume his seat. Order, order. The Hon. Member will resume his seat. Hon. Members over here will come to order.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): The worst Speaker we ever had.

Mr. Speaker: I must require that to be withdrawn immediately by the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques. The Hon. Member knows why I must require it.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): I will withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have not heard a question of privilege nor have I heard a point of order. I am therefore going to proceed to statements by Ministers. I have not heard a question of privileges. I have not even heard the beginning of a question of privilege. I will hear the right hon. gentleman on the citation immediately on which he bases his question of privilege.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I in no way challenge the Hon. Member's right to use French and I compliment him on it. I wonder, if we are in the spirit of withdrawal, whether the Hon. Member will withdraw that reflection he made on my remark.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a question or privilege. Order. The Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi) will resume his seat. The Hon. Members over here are also out of order, and that includes the Minister. The Hon. Member for Bourassa will resume his seat and come to order or he will be required to go.

I have not heard a point of order or a question of privilege. Order, please. This is clearly a difficult moment. Order. Statements by Ministers? What is the Member from Hamilton East's point of order?

Ms. Copps: I would like to ask the guidance of the Chair with respect to a Standing Order which states that Members are not allowed to read questions or answers. There is a

specific Standing Order which states you are not allowed to read from pieces of paper into the record, which is exactly what the Hon. House Leader of the Government Party did during Question Period and for which he was not—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, order. There is, indeed, a Standing Order to that effect. The Chair has seen many Members on both sides holding pieces of paper during Question Period, which the Chair has always assumed represent notes for the purpose of the questioner or for the purpose of the answerer. Order, please. The Hon. Member is asking the Chair to find that no Member may hold a piece of paper in his or her hand during Question Period. The Member is asking the Chair to make a determination on the spot whether something is being used as a note or is read. That is a very difficult thing to do during Question Period. On a point of order?

Mr. de Corneille: Is the Speaker going to allow the Hon. Member to accuse the Leader of the Opposition of being a racist? Is he going to permit that?

Mr. Speaker: Please, I listened carefully, I did not hear the accusation made personally. I would assure the Hon. Member if I had I would have ordered it to be withdrawn.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The question that was posed to me was a serious question of which I had notice. I have no apology to make with respect to the response that I gave. I am not totally fluent in the French language and it may offend some people that I am not able to speak clearly in that language. If there is any suggestion that my comments have offended the House with respect to an allegation made by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition then I, of course, unequivocally withdraw that allegation. I simply want to say that I try my best in the French language.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope this is the end of it. The Hon. Member for Bourassa has a separate point of order?

Mr. Rossi: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[*Translation*]

PRIVILEGE

REMARKS OF THE HON. MEMBER FOR BEAUCE

Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, when comments were flying fast and furious just now, I clearly heard the Hon. Member for Beauce (Mr. Bernier) say: "Correct, la mafia, assieds-toi!" Mr. Speaker, I cannot tolerate this second slur on my origins. And if the Hon. Member for Beauce has any honour at all, even if his remarks are not on the record, let him stand up and say that once more he has referred to us Italians as the Mafia. I will not tolerate this, Mr. Speaker! If he has