

Privilege is about what would impede a person from speaking, from voting, from coming to the House. It was raised as a point of order and I ruled on this as a point of order.

In my view this is the same point and I would like the matter to rest there.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker—

**The Speaker:** You have the floor.

**Mr. Gauthier:** We will check up on what was said—

**The Speaker:** Order, please.

Dear colleague, this is neither a point of order nor a question of privilege, and I would like to leave it at this.

**Mr. Gauthier:** May I ask a question, please?

**The Speaker:** I am prepared to hear you on another point of order, but not on this one. I recognize the hon. member for Roberval.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I rise on a point of order to ask you, Mr. Speaker, since you are here to provide guidance, how, according to standard procedure, I should go about setting the record straight when a member puts words in my mouth that I never said.

I would like to know what to do, so that I can then raise my point of order, Mr. Speaker.

• (1520)

**The Speaker:** Dear colleague, normally, what would happen is that you would simply rise on a point of order and state that you did not say any such thing. At any rate, I do not want to embark on a long discussion on this matter. So, if you wish to go on record in *Hansard*, I will allow that, but nothing more.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Very well, Mr. Speaker, because I respect your decision, and it is truly for that reason that I will comply. For the record, I would just like to say that the words the hon. member for Madawaska—Victoria ascribed to me are incorrect. I never said that, plain and simple.

[English]

**The Speaker:** We are entering debate and we do not want to go down that road. I have made a ruling. The hon. member wanted clarification. I told him how he could do this. I permitted him to make the one statement which he made. It is on the record and it is clear. I ruled on a point of order earlier and, colleagues, I wish you would accept that point of order.

I have ruled on the point of privilege by saying that it was not a point of privilege. I wish you would accept that. I would like to let this matter rest now where it is.

## Routine Proceedings

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

#### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to three petitions.

\* \* \*

[English]

#### NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE WEEK

**Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as federal minister responsible for co-operatives, I wish to take the opportunity today to recognize and salute National Co-Operative Week and International Credit Union Day in Canada.

Since pioneer times Canadians have found it beneficial to work together toward common goals. The co-operative movement springs from that community effort and involvement.

An important part of our economy, co-ops provide over 133,000 jobs and represent more than \$140 billion in assets. Non-financial co-operatives have a volume of business of \$20.7 billion. Together, caisses populaires and credit unions represent the fifth largest financial network in Canada.

[Translation]

This year is important for the international co-operative movement, as it marks the 100th anniversary of the International Co-operative Alliance. The ICA represents more than 753 million members from 90 countries. The conference held in Manchester in September was a major event for the international co-operative movement. Revised co-operation principles were adopted that will propel co-ops into the 21st century. In this respect, I think that it would be proper to pay special tribute to Ian MacPherson, from British Columbia, who spearheaded the process.

• (1525)

[English]

Co-operatives are an effective way of providing a wide range of goods and services to their members and to consumers. While many co-operatives operate in urban centres, they have been especially effective in developing businesses and creating employment in rural areas and small communities.

Through co-operation, many Canadians have established new businesses and expanded into new or unique ventures. For example, the Seaway Valley Farmers Energy Co-operative in eastern Ontario will produce ethanol from locally grown grains.