

**Mr. MacFarlane:** It must have been the same person who gave you the letter out of my files.

**Mr. McCain:** Let us reflect for about 15 seconds. With regard to whether it was the intention of the government that this was to be a perfectly free vote, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) who preceded me in this debate outlined the method by which that could be done without reflection on the government.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Has the hon. member completed his remarks?

**Mr. McCain:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Rulings have previously been made by the Chair on comments similar to those just made by the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain). According to my recollection, the Chair has held that it is not proper for any hon. member to reflect upon a vote. I think that principle is eminently acceptable. Each and every member of this House is free to exercise his judgment in accordance with his conscience and volition. To indicate that any member could be influenced to vote contrary to his conscience is a direct attack on the privileges of members of this House. I suggest that the hon. member's remarks ought not to have been made.

**Mr. McCain:** Mr. Speaker, the rules of this House provide that an individual should not in any way reflect upon another individual personally. I reflected purely and simply upon the pressure of the government to obtain as many votes as it could for its position in respect of this legislation, and I said that pressure was such that the government could no longer claim that it was a free vote. I did not reflect upon an individual. There were individuals who took offence at my reflection against the government.

● (1300)

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I have sat here the whole morning and I think the remarks which were made with respect to the matter, if they constitute a point of order at all, arose out of what was said by the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert). The hon. member for Edmonton West said that traditionally in parliament, when a matter was to be proposed upon which the whips would not be applied, it was always dealt with through private members' business. I listened carefully to what the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain) said, and it was clear to me that he was leading up to that point, a point a finally made which was in line with what the hon. member for Edmonton West had said immediately before him.

There might be some sensitivity among members of the House with respect to what occurred—and I have no idea what occurred—but surely we have not reached the stage at which discussion of the various methods by which debates are conducted and questions taken and put to members is to be deemed a reflection on a vote such as

### *The Queen*

might be contrary to the rules. If this is a point of order at all, and there is some doubt about that, it is not a point well taken. The hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte and the hon. member for Edmonton West stand in exactly the same position; both were speaking from the point in view of methodology. There was no reflection on a vote of the House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I must say my first reaction to part of the remarks made by the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain) was to question their relevance. As to the point of order suggesting there might have been a reflection on the vote, I agree with what has been said by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker). The hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte implied that pressure was brought to bear, but he did not reflect on the decision reached by the House. This was more or less confirmed by what the hon. member himself just said.

Parliament, after all, is an institution in which debate takes place and in which hon. members seek to convince others by speeches both inside and outside the House. I do not think that to say so is passing judgment on a vote or on the freedom of a vote cast by a member. It is a natural fact of life and the rules of the House permit it. So I do not agree with the point of order raised by the parliamentary secretary. I do not think that, strictly speaking, the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte was reflecting on a vote.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** One o'clock.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

#### THE QUEEN

BEST WISHES ON HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO CANADA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provision of Standing Order 43 to move a motion of rather urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has begun her official visit to Canada and is now in Nova Scotia I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald):

That the members of the House of Commons—

Through Your Honour.

—send best wishes to Her Majesty, et bienvenue au Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Prud'homme:** In both official languages.