

Ways and Means

● (1520)

Mr. Crosbie: Why?

Mr. Tobin: To respond because I raised this question. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) should note that it was not the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Ms. Dewar) or the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) who raised the matter today in Question Period, it was the Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin). No one disputes the right of the Minister of Transport to defend himself or to put another view in any debate nor does anybody dispute the Hon. Member's right to use humour. I submit that all Hon. Members have enjoyed it on occasion. However, it is this particular brand of humour which, I submit, belittles all the women of Canada that is in question.

If the Member would put aside his partisanship, come to his senses and realize that we live in 1987, he would quietly come to his feet and submit an apology for any insult that was felt by the women of Canada, not by specific Members of this House who can defend themselves because they are here. If he did that, perhaps this matter could be closed and done away with. That would be the proper, acceptable thing.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has heard representations and comments on both sides of the House. It may very well be a matter of considerable debate between others, but it is not a question of privilege. It is the view of the Chair that the interests of this place are not advanced by proceeding with further points of order on this question.

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Mr. Hockin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to ask if I could lay upon the table copies of a motion. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 84(1)—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister of State is, I think, technically out of order. He would require consent to continue. I see the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier). Perhaps he could assist the Chair.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I know, like any Member of the House, that there are times of the day for tabling of documents. We passed that time this morning around eleven o'clock. If the Minister was not in the House to table his document, he should have at least come to us to tell us of his intent to table something and to consult. Maybe we would agree with him if we knew what he wanted to do, but to have Ministers come in any time of the day to table documents will not be in order as long as I am Whip of this Party.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Hockin) could assist the Chair and the Chamber by indicating just what it is he wishes to table.

Mr. Hockin: Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to consult. Indeed, I always try to make sure proper consultations occur and, if they have not, I do apologize. I understand the point the Hon. Member is making.

It is a copy of a Ways and Means motion to amend the Excise Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I can assist Hon. Members. Standing Order 84(1) reads:

A notice of a Ways and Means motion may be laid upon the Table of the House at any time during a sitting by a Minister of the Crown, but such a motion may not be proposed in the same sitting.

I would hear from Hon. Members, but I think on the face of it that the Hon. Minister of State, if it is a Ways and Means motion, is in order. My difficulty is that I did not know for what purpose the Hon. Minister was rising.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, just to clarify that point, I understand the point you are making. I understood the Minister to say that he had a document to table and that is why I took exception to his tabling of a document. However, if it is a Ways and Means motion, of course a Minister can table that at any time.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister of State seems to have gone over all hurdles and may now proceed with his Ways and Means motion.

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WAYS AND MEANS**TABLING OF NOTICE OF MOTION**

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I apologize to my hon. friend.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 84(1), I have the honour to lay upon the Table copies of a Ways and Means motion to amend the Excise Tax Act and, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 84(2), I ask that an Order of the Day be designated for the consideration of the said motion.

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Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, briefly, the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) mentioned another Member's behaviour during Question Period. By the time that was done the Hon. Member for Lethbridge—Foothills (Mr. Thacker) had left the Chamber because of other responsibilities. I would like it to be on public record that he was not in the Chamber and, according to our customs, might indeed want to reply at the earliest possible occasion, something which was not possible because he was not here.