Order Paper Questions

That appears on page 105. There follows a list of those expressions. At page 108 the term "mislead" is included as being one of those expressions which is unparliamentary and the reference is to the debate of January 18, 1958 at page 3346. Again at page 109 references to "deliberately misleading", "deliberately misled" and "wilfully misled" are included as unparliamentary. As well, I might point out there is the expression "attempting to misrepresent". Even an attempt is unparliamentary as a reference. At page 112 of Beauchesne, about two thirds of the way down the page, again the term "mislead" is mentioned as being unparliamentary and also, specifically on point, the term "misleading" is ruled as being unparliamentary in our *Debates* of April 12, 1960, page 3175. In our *Debates* of March 7, 1974, at page 257, again "misled"

There seems to be ample evidence in our practices and procedures where that term is unparliamentary. I repeat the term used by the minister, quoting from page 3528 of yesterday's *Hansard*:

He is misleading the House right now.

has been held to be unparliamentary.

I have no objection if the minister wishes to add the word "unintentional" or "inadvertently". Perhaps in the heat of debate it was the minister's own inadvertence or lack of intention to use that kind of term without qualification. I ask her either to withdraw it or qualify it as I have suggested.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The hon. member is correct. In 1958, the word "mislead" was indeed considered out of order. However, in more recent practice in the House of Commons, it has been allowed provided it was not qualified by the words "intentionally" or "deliberately".

This practice has prevailed in the House in recent years so that, though I do not know exactly what the tenor of the intervention of the Minister of Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) will be, in order to respect more recent usage in the House, perhaps she could qualify the term "mislead" that she used yesterday, as she feels she should. The Minister of National Health and Welfare has the floor.

[English]

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, as a lay person who does not have the benefit of legal training, even after eight years as a member of Parliament in this House, I am still appalled at the subtleties of the game of parliamentary debate. The facts are more simple than that, thank God.

When I left the House of Commons after yesterday's question period, a reporter showed me a document. It appeared to be a memo to cabinet and spoke of an immunization program costing \$6 million. That does not come from our government, so I do not quite know the parameters of the game being played here in accusing us of having cut programs for children. This was not in our programs because it does not fall under federal jurisdiction. It is not for me to comment on views

regarding confidential documents expressed by anybody in this House.

• (1250)

If it is better rhetoric to say "inadvertently misleading the House", of course I will add that adverb with great pleasure.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, do I clearly understand the Chair's ruling here that it is now parliamentary to use the term "misleading" or "misled" without qualification?

Madam Speaker: It is my understanding that you are quite right, that in Beauchesne's 1958 edition the term "misled" was listed as unparliamentary.

Mr. Nielsen: In 1974, page 109.

Madam Speaker: In 1974?

Mr. Nielsen: If it pleases the Chair, at page 112 in our debates of March 7, 1974, page 257, the term "misled".

Madam Speaker: That is what I was suggesting to the hon. member, that before that the term was considered to be unparliamentary, but in more recent practices of the House it has been admitted as long as it is qualified. It seems to me that if a member rises, as the hon. minister has done now, adding, as she has, "inadvertently" to the term "misled", this should satisfy the hon. member.

Mr. Nielsen: Indeed it does, and I thank the minister for that.

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 412 to 423 inclusively, 1,336 and 1,499.

I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Questions Nos. 412 to 423 incl.—Mr. Orlikow:

No. 412

- 1. For the years (a) 1976-77 (b) 1977-78 (c) 1978-79 (i) what were the three major causes of death (ii) what was the death rate per 1,000 live births from each cause of death in the province of Manitoba of status Indian children?
- 2. For the same years, what were the comparative figures for the rest of the population in the province?