

*Privilege—Mr. Mazankowski*

heard the Member hurl an accusation across the floor. The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) said that the accusation was not directed at the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski).

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but the Chair is in some difficulty. The Deputy Prime Minister raised a question of privilege. In response, the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) stood and withdrew completely any suggestion of impropriety and has done so in the best tradition of this place.

My difficulty here is that I am not sure what point the Hon. Member is raising. If it has anything to do with the point which the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has made, I have to advise the Hon. Member that that issue is closed unless something extraordinary came out of the exchange.

**Mr. Shields:** Mr. Speaker, I hope you will give me just a moment to explain my position. The accusation “kickback” was hurled across the floor. That is the most devastating accusation that one Member can make in this House against another.

**Mr. Speaker:** It may or may not be the most devastating accusation.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** It often depends on exactly how it was put and in what context.

The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap said that he did not in any way mean to imply that the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister took a kickback in any of the senses that that would ordinarily apply. One cannot do more in this Chamber than have an apology as direct, unequivocal and as honourable as that. I must take the position that that closes off the issue.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I did not take down the exact language of the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) in his response to the point raised by my colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski). I would appreciate knowing—I think the House would—whether the statement by the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap was specific to the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** The reason I raise the question is that I very much believe I heard the Member from Kamloops—Shuswap shout twice across the floor—twice—the word “kickback” aimed at someone in this Government. If his explanation was designed to indicate that he was not referring to the Deputy Prime Minister but was designed to leave open the suggestion that he was referring to others, then I think further clarification is required and further action by him.

**Mr. Speaker:** This House has the highest regard for the right hon. gentleman and I have certainly listened carefully to the point which the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) has made. Unless the Chair was completely mistaken, I did not take that suggestion, either directly or indirectly, from anything the Hon. Member of Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) said. The Hon. Member, who is well respected in this place, can of course comment. Perhaps he might make it easy for the Chair by making it absolutely clear that the Chair did not misinterpret what he had to say.

● (1530)

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, because of the great respect I have for the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) and his position, always have had, and presumably always will have, I want to make it totally clear that I cannot imagine any scenario where I would ever accuse the Hon. Member of kickbacks. I did not in the past. I did not today. If there is any suggestion that I did, I want to withdraw it completely. I want to make it completely clear that I have the most respect for the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Well, Mr. Speaker—

**Some Hon. Members:** That is enough!

**Mr. Speaker:** On the basis of what the Chair has heard, someone, and it may well have been the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) said “kickback”. The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) was the member of the Government receiving the questions on a particular grant to an operation in the City of Edmonton. The question of privilege was raised by the Deputy Prime Minister, directed at the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap, and that Hon. Member has made it unequivocally clear that he is not accusing the Hon. Member of receiving a kickback.

If there is a second question of privilege, which may be what the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) is getting at, then it is the obligation of the Chair to hear it. However, I want it clearly understood that, at least in the view of the Chair, the first point raised by the Deputy Prime Minister is settled. If there is another point, I am obliged under the customs and rules of this place to hear it.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to prolong this. In order that all of us on this side of the House may determine whether or not there is a question of privilege we want to raise, I wonder if the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) would indicate exactly whom it was he was accusing of having received a kickback.

**Mr. Riis:** You know the rules, Joe.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Right Hon. Secretary of State, who is well respected in this place and a skillful debater, will know that what he raised was not a point of order or question of privilege, but was clearly something which should be taken up