

Point of Order—Mr. Gauthier

equipment, cannot do that. What I can assure the Hon. Member is that whenever the Chair or the Sergeant-at-Arms receives a complaint, or a concern, it is acted on as quickly as in humanly possible.

Mr. Nunziata: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Miss Carney: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: On a question of privilege, the Hon. Member for York South-Weston (Mr. Nunziata).

Miss Carney: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Prud'homme: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will deal with them in the order in which I have received them. The Hon. Member for York South-Weston is claiming privilege. Is the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) rising on the point of order which has already been raised?

Mr. Prud'homme: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Let us conclude this point of order I will then hear the question of privilege. The Hon. Member for Saint-Denis.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, in order that we can try to have an intelligent debate in the days, I am sure, and maybe even the weeks to come, on this matter, would Your Honour consider it the duty of a Member—any Member—to inform the Chair immediately upon knowing, or upon receiving information to the fact, that rooms of caucus—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is a different question. The Hon. Member indicated that he was rising on the same question. He is asking the Chair to give an opinion as to what the Chair believes is someone's duty. Clearly, the Chair cannot do that, and the Hon. Member knows that.

The Hon. Member for York South-Weston (Mr. Nunziata) on a question of privilege.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order on the same issue, if you wish to deal with them all at once.

Mr. Speaker: The point of order that was raised with me was with regard to checking the caucus rooms. Is the Hon. Member rising on the same point of order?

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the reason I am rising on this point of order is because some months ago I requested—in fact of the Speaker's Chair—that a sweep of my offices be done. I would like to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, the inadequacy of this procedure in that the night before my office was swept I received a telephone call advising me that the sweeping would take place the next evening. It would seem to me that if the House is truly intent on having a proper sweeping procedure, the Speaker, or the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, would not

advise by telephone that they were going to be doing a sweep of those telephones. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, in that regard that you consider the possibility of looking at this question in a more general way because I do not feel we are being protected.

Mr. Speaker: I welcome the Hon. Member's recommendations on our procedures. I will be happy to take them and discuss them with the Sergeant-at-Arms. She may, in fact, have a very valid point. At first reading, she may have.

The Hon. Member for York South-Weston (Mr. Nunziata) on a question of privilege.

* * *

PRIVILEGE**INVESTIGATION BY MR. SPEAKER OF REPORTED REVELATION
BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister has admitted that he had access to certain conversations which took place in a caucus meeting, or caucus meetings, of the Liberal caucus some time ago. He has admitted to the fact that he had access to and made use of—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): What privilege is being claimed?

Mr. Nunziata: —information that was illegally obtained.

I submit that the Deputy Prime Minister, who was then a Member of Parliament, had a duty. His duty was to report to the police, and to those in authority, including—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Order!

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member. He knows our practices. Could he please tell me what point of privilege he is raising, as opposed to making the case, I presume he wants to make, should there be a question of privilege found and put before the House? Could he therefore tell me what the privilege is, please?

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, I would ask, in view of the importance of this particular matter, that Your Honour conduct an investigation. I am suggesting that my privilege as an elected Member of Parliament has been affected by the revelation and the admission of the Deputy Prime Minister that conversations in a private meeting of caucus were intercepted.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Order! That is wrong and you know it.

Mr. Nunziata: As a Member of Parliament, I am—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I am in a dilemma. Hon. Members know that the Chair requires one hour's notice of an application for a question of privilege, except those arising directly out of Question Period, in the sense of what goes on in Question Period.

Ms. Copps: You wouldn't let us deal with the question.