

the Prime Minister offered abroad or that Her Majesty the Queen accepted abroad. That is clear.

What is equally clear and what is shameful—and let me say that I have as much affection for Her Majesty the Queen as any member of this House—is the partisan attempt participated in by no less than the Prime Minister himself to divert the attention of Canada from the GST by dragging the Queen into this debate. That is shocking and shameful.

I suggest if we are to be serious here about our responsibilities and serious about any kind of concept of respect for the sovereign that the Prime Minister, followed by the Deputy Prime Minister, would apologize for the shameless spectacle today.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I have a brief point in regard to the question raised by my hon. friend about dragging the Queen in.

On Wednesday of last week, the member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte who just spoke said: “I asked the Deputy Prime Minister: Why has the Prime Minister of Canada deliberately misled the Queen of Canada about paralysis in the Senate?”

A final point. My hon. friend expresses his affection and respect for Her Majesty the Queen and I have no doubt about the sincerity of his commitment whatsoever. I think the evidence of that should be that he should join all members of the House in asking Senator Hébert to immediately repudiate an offensive and unacceptable statement about Her Majesty that this party and this government will not allow to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Shefford is seeking the floor. I understand the hon. member has a matter to raise which is not the one that is presently before the House.

I am going to exercise the prerogative of the Chair, and I am going to advise the House that it is important that we understand where we are.

What is in front of the House right now is a request put forward by the Deputy Prime Minister asking unanimous consent for a motion.

The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier is probably right. There is some doubt in my mind as to whether, given all the circumstances, there is necessarily a breach of privilege here. I do not have to decide that.

Points of Order

The hon. member is absolutely right in saying that that is another argument. Procedurally, we have a request from the government for unanimous consent on the motion that was read out. That is the position.

I have allowed some comment, but I do not think that I am allowed or ought to extend the debate for the rest of the afternoon on this matter.

The House has heard the motion. Is there unanimous agreement?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

[Translation]

M. Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I prefer to wait until there is order.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I have recognized the hon. member for Shefford on a question of privilege.

[Translation]

COMMENTS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR BURIN—ST-GEORGE'S

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, if you can hear me— This morning, I heard the member for Burin—St-George's make frankly offensive remarks concerning some of us, but I would like to reserve the right to check the transcripts of the debate and comment on this question of privilege tomorrow.

• (1530)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I take it that the hon. member has given notice.

[Translation]

I have been given notice. Tomorrow maybe.

[English]

REMARKS BY SENATOR

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, regarding the point of order on which the Deputy Prime Minister stood, I was trying to get the Speaker's attention to make an intervention.

I am asking for instructions from the Chair, not necessarily in terms of the substance of its ruling. Why it is that members opposite, particularly the right hon. Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister are allowed or seem to have the right to stand in their place not to make comments but to make very lengthy