

Point of Order—Mr. Crosbie

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): —but I am prepared to let the record stand, because we have an indication of the view of the people of Alberta by a spokesman of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East): Mr. Speaker, sitting quite close to the Member from the New Democratic Party I could hear exactly what he said. He called the people of Alberta “loons”. I have a point of privilege here. It is not appropriate for a Member of the NDP to describe the people of Alberta in that way.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, as someone who was born—

Mr. Crosbie: Thank God for that.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: If we all try very hard we may be able to improve this exchange. The Hon. Member.

Mr. Riis: I hope there was no question about that fact, Mr. Speaker.

As an Albertan by birth, I want to make it perfectly clear that in spite of some of the fun that some Members have had in terms of whether certain unparliamentary words were used to refer to a single Member in the House who was interjecting and interrupting during Question Period—

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Riis: —I want to make it perfectly clear that the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) was referring to a single Member of Parliament—

Mr. McDermid: Sneaky.

Mr. Riis: —who was not behaving in a particularly parliamentary fashion by doing what everybody in the Conservative Party is now doing, that is, yelling and screaming, to interrupt the person speaking at the moment.

Mr. Heap: Mr. Speaker, I will admit that I did not realize what would flow from this. Certainly I did not think that any question would be raised as to whether the Hon. Member for Kamloops (Mr. Riis) was born or brought by another kind of bird than the one I mentioned.

Therefore, I request the permission of yourself and the House to withdraw entirely the reference to loons from anywhere whatever.

• (1510)

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member and other Hon. Members. I am sure no offence was meant against any particular species of bird.

POINT OF ORDER

CORRECTION TO ANSWER DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would just like to correct the record for yesterday. As reported in *Hansard* at page 6592, I answered a question. It is not the fault of the *Hansard* reporter, but it is an important answer so I just want to correct it. The sentence reads:

The power of nations, their circumference, nothing matters to us—we will see that the law is administered to them—

There should be a full stop after the word “them”. Then it should read: “In the disputed area we have to abide by international custom, by international law”. The answer does not make sense as it now stands. Since I always make sense, I want to have the record attest to the fact that what I said was sensible.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, I seek some direction from the Chair. The Hon. Member would have had an opportunity yesterday, upon receipt of his “blues”, to send the “blues” back to the *Hansard* people to correct the record. I would suggest that it is inappropriate for him to raise the matter today in order to try to clarify the record. To allow that to happen would set a dangerous precedent for lazy Members who do not read their “blues” and do not send their “blues” back for corrections. I would ask the Hon. Member from Newfoundland to start reading his “blues” and acting a little more responsibly.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, with your permission, may I make a comment on this point of order? The House would want to seek your guidance on the approach taken by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie). I understood him to say that he wished to rise to correct the record of *Hansard* because the answer he gave did not make any sense. I would like to ask you if it is appropriate to correct answers in *Hansard* if, as an afterthought, the Hon. Member who used the words decides that the words in question do not make any sense. This may be very useful for the Minister of Transport in particular, but I wonder if this is an appropriate reason to correct *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: I suppose the only helpful thing the Chair can say is that it shows some good sense to want to correct the record rather than to leave it as it is.

With respect to the practice to which the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) referred, it has not been unusual in the past for an Hon. Member to rise the next day to make the correction, but the Hon. Member for York South—Weston, of course, is completely right. All Hon. Members, if they have the opportunity and if they are able to check the “blues”, would be able to make those corrections before the next day and, as a consequence, not take the time of the House. I thank Hon. Members for interventions.