

Points of Order

I think it is obvious that today, in this modern era, the Parliament of Canada should have a much faster, more efficient voting system than the one we must use when some members engage in systematic obstruction as they did last night.

In closing, I will simply remind the government House leader of the McGrath committee's recommendations. All members of that committee—Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats—unanimously recommended changing the voting system in this House to make it more efficient. I trust that the parliamentary committee studying the reform of parliamentary procedure will deal urgently with this matter so that situations like yesterday's do not recur in future.

[*English*]

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, the incident last night reminded me of the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker's description of this institution which he sometimes described as the only insane asylum in the country in control of the inmates.

Last night it seemed that particularly dangerous inmates were in control, hence the suggestion of the hon. member that we look at some way of constraining this exuberant waste of everybody's time. The basically childish performance we saw last night of unnecessarily prolonging the endurance of this House is something we could re-examine in terms of the rules of this place and find a way—electronic voting is certainly a component of that—in which people who watch either in the galleries or on television are not brought to shame and tears as they see this place function.

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to House business and perhaps with not too much commentary on the exchange between the House leader and the hon. member for Papineau—Saint-Michel.

I must say before we get too far so we can get on to debate and not have a point of order all afternoon that there were members on all sides, some wearing hats that some people took exception to, that did not help the troubled waters that we all knew were here.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the government House leader for earlier today introducing Bill C-84. The Minister of Veterans Affairs, under whose name it is, is not here today. I must say it is an

interesting bill. I have not fully digested it. It is a heck of a lot more complicated than I thought, but I am hoping that in the consultations the government House leader has with the other parties in this coming week that there may be an agreement. I think there is a disposition on all sides to move this along almost in a single day so that this bill could be debated, concluded, and out of the way certainly by July 1.

If we are talking about 125 years, there would not be a more fitting tribute to people who really sacrificed for this country to make sure this omission was corrected.

I say that seriously and congratulate the minister very much.

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• (1510)

POINTS OF ORDER**COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD**

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, I am always a little bit reluctant to rise in this House to chastise any of the members but perhaps Mr. Speaker can give me some direction as to whether what I am bringing up is a point of order or a point of privilege.

Today, if I understood correctly, we had one hon. member in this House calling another member a traitor. I think that this kind of language is completely unacceptable to this House. Notwithstanding that we had the Prime Minister saying that he did not mind this kind of language being addressed to him and he gave the reasons for it, I personally as a member of this House take umbrage at the fact that one hon. member can call another hon. member a traitor and not have any repercussions at all.

Mr. Speaker, as the spokesperson for us in this House, I call upon you to consider a decision that at the very least the member who used this word against another member be seriously reprimanded and that we demand that those words be withdrawn from the record of this House of Commons.

We are not going to be played as the buffoons because there are a few hon. members here who can step out at any time and call other members names which have never been acceptable in this House and which I hope will never become acceptable here, Mr. Speaker.