

Privilege

lots of people watching us leaving. I do not know what they are watching us for but they do like to look at us.

I am not trying to suggest to the gentleman who was arrested yesterday what he should do tomorrow, but if it is helpful to him I hope he will listen. If he is there on the sidewalk alone with no sign, but just smiles and waves to everybody that he is annoyed at, is he going to be arrested?

I will say only that. I could go on, Mr. Speaker, but I know your patience is coming to an end, and you are absolutely right. You know I will respect your guidance.

We are stuck with a problem and I would like this problem to be looked into again to see how we can depoliticize these great champions of human rights and political freedom, and all that when we know there is a little bit of political game-playing going on. We all know that.

I will act according to your guidance, Mr. Speaker, but I wish very much that you will take what I have said into strong consideration to see if we have not acted a little too promptly. My father always told me to make proposals and suggestions. Even if it is not acceptable, I will make one.

Maybe the whole matter should be returned to the Board of Internal Economy and it, having listened to everybody, will make some proposals. These proposals should go to the caucuses. If members are absent from caucus or the caucuses have not consulted, that is just too bad. After that, when you are satisfied, you say that these are the new rules on the Hill. This is urgent. Hon. members know that on April 24, my friends from the Armenian community will be coming to the Hill, as they have for 25 years. I would not like to see them in trouble because they do not know about this and they will not know exactly where to walk and where not to walk, and so on.

So I am in your hands, and I know we are in competent hands. It is a difficult cause to solve, but I would hope my colleagues will try to help out in depoliticizing— that is a tough word—

[*Translation*]

to depoliticize this issue so that we can come up with something intelligent.

[*English*]

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding my notice to you about three hours ago, I was not going to rise on my point of privilege because it had been indicated to me about an hour ago by the Table officers that my question of privilege would not be in order because it related to yesterday's incident in front of the House of Commons. But in the last 15 minutes all the talk has been about the incident of yesterday in front of the House of Commons.

I do not want to go on too long. I just want to say a couple of things. I think that the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants has raised a very good question. I think there should be guidelines given to us immediately by the government so that not only MPs but the general public know where we stand.

Is this new regulation going to be enforced? Are we liable to be arrested if we go out and do something that is contrary to the regulation? I think it is incumbent upon the government to tell us exactly where we stand. I also think that my colleague from the Liberal Party who spoke just a few moments ago makes a very good suggestion that this matter go back to the Board of Internal Economy and that it be rehashed and brought to the caucuses so that once and for all the matter can be settled.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank hon. members for their interventions. We have all heard what has been said. There seem to be some helpful suggestions here and, as I suggested earlier, perhaps some appropriate discussions should take place. Again, I thank hon. members for their approach and for their helpfulness.

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, as you probably are aware from reading *Hansard*, I was involved in the incident yesterday for which I think the legal term, in police words, is "occurrence". As you are probably also aware from reading *Hansard* I was having a conversation, as a member of Parliament, with a citizen. It was during that process that this harassment took place.

I have been asked to appear in court on Friday and I am not sure, as a member of Parliament, about the propriety of it. I have not been subpoenaed. I am a willing witness in this case. But there is much confusion about this regulation which, I understand, is a regulatory reform. There is a citizens' code here that requires a pre-publication in the *Canada Gazette*, if I understand