

Point of Order

the employment situation in Granduc and will help the industry to diversify as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker: I have two notices of privilege, but I have also notice from the Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts) of a point of order, which might usefully be taken first. Also I have notice that three ministers will be tabling documents that perhaps the House will be interested in. I wonder if I might be permitted to call those matters in that order.

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POINTS OF ORDER

MR. BAKER (GRENVILLE-CARLETON)—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We have learned from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) that he has the information with regard to the employment tax credit program which was passed in the House. Previously he undertook that it would be starting by March 1. If he has information in order to answer the questions of the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), we would appreciate hearing from him now.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the House. I have checked with the Department of Employment and Immigration. The program will start next week on March 8.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS—CORRECTION OF OFFICIAL REPORT

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I have two separate corrections or clarifications to make to *Hansard* for February 28. The first one relates to the adjournment debate as reported at page 3330 when I was replying to the question of the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier). The English *Hansard* reads as follows:

Just before Christmas, we stressed the importance given at the federal level to the idea that the provinces will agree to exceptions to these very important rights.

It should read, "to accepting these very important rights". Since it is a complete transformation of the sense, I should like that correction to be made.

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): *Hansard* reported accurately what the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts) said yesterday.

Mr. Roberts: But I was speaking in French.

Mr. Paproski: I heard the translation.

Mr. Roberts: The French version of *Hansard* reads as follows:

[*Translation*]

... que les provinces acceptent les exceptions à ces droits très importants.

[Mr. Horner.]

[*English*]

My only explanation would be that perhaps I was groping for words in French and repeated twice the word "accepteront", which was reported as "exceptions".

MR. ROBERTS—CLARIFICATION OF CHANGES IN ESTIMATES

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the second matter refers to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) yesterday. Earlier the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald) argued that there had been a decrease in funding on the part of the government for arts and culture within the Department of the Secretary of State. Since that was not the case, and since I understood how he arrived at that conclusion, I was seeking to explain the true situation to him.

In my remarks I used the word "error", which I think was wrongly used. Shortly after the blue book went to press, there was a change agreed to by Treasury Board which had the effect of making an increase, in the grants portion to be undertaken under the Festival Canada program, to \$1,450,000. In effect, it was not an error at the time the Blue Book went to press. The blue book did not accurately indicate decisions which were subsequently taken. It would be the intention of the government to make the modification on supplementary estimates. I wanted to be sure the hon. member for Egmont did not misunderstand the government's intention. The use of the word "error" was probably an inaccurate description of what in fact took place.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I want to respond for a moment to the comments made by the Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts). He leaves the standing committee in a bit of difficulty when it meets, if some of the material being furnished to it by way of reference today will not be complete, in the sense of analysing this with previous expenditures, until we have supplementary estimates, which are many months away. Prior to any consideration by committee, I hope the minister will be able to make available to all hon. members a full explanation so that proper and due consideration can be given to items in the estimates.

Also while I am on my feet, originally I meant to raise a question of privilege concerning the comments of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie). I realize he did not want to cast any aspersions on the motivation or interest of any hon. member, but he referred to the fact that I had been seized suddenly with this problem of agents' fees. Possibly the minister neglected to check the record and refer to the many occasions on which I, as well as many other hon. members, had raised this issue over some months.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If I permit the hon. member the floor on a question of privilege on those grounds, presumably I will have to let several ministers have the floor every time an hon. member, in putting a question, says something which might cast any aspersions on ministers. Perhaps that is a