

which they were elected to do. That is the fundamental test.

I have to say that under these circumstances, whatever the arguments may be, it does not meet that test and I have to with of course great respect reject the hon. member's application.

REMARKS DURING STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York Centre was interrupted by me earlier today when he was making a statement pursuant to S. O. 31 and I understand that he wishes to rise on a question of privilege and of course I will hear him.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I begin by acknowledging the very large measure of responsibility that the Chair has for preserving order in the House in relation to S. O. 31s. But I insist, Mr. Speaker, that the statement that I had begun to make is an entirely proper one to be made in this place.

At the moment when you interrupted me, you may have anticipated, perhaps, that I was intending—if I can use the words of Standing Order 18—to use offensive words against a member of the other place, or that I was intending to reflect upon what was done in another place. Far from it, Mr. Speaker.

What I was doing was quoting one of the newly appointed Senators in the other place, the Hon. Pat Carney, and the words which were attributed to her by a journalist, showing the low regard that she has for members of the Italian community and I think—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is rising on a question of privilege. The complaint now is that I may well have cut the hon. member off before I would have if I had heard the hon. member in entirety.

Again, it is difficult to say that that is a question of privilege. It may have been an error on the part of the Chair. I am going to listen to the argument but, please, I tell the hon. member that I did stop him from what could be taken to be an attack on a member of the Senate. I have some difficulty on this rule and the hon. member knows.

I would ask the hon. member to refrain from the attack and pursue the question of privilege.

Speaker's Ruling

Mr. Kaplan: I will be very brief, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted simply to quote her and then I wanted to urge her to show greater respect for members of other communities and for other Senators. That was the entire burden of what I wanted to say. I would certainly not have used it to attack the Senate. Indeed, the reverse. I wanted to make some high-minded statements about the role that the Senate plays and hope that the hon. member would do that. I would have then called upon her and the Prime Minister to apologize for the statements that she made and, with respect, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is the place where that should be done.

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs)): Mr. Speaker, on that same point, it was made very clear at the time that the hon. Senator did not make those statements. There were no quotes attributable to her. It was not a quoted statement by the minister, but in fact comments by a reporter in a paper. There were no quotation marks around it. There was no recording of that and she denies she ever said it.

I would respectfully suggest that the hon. member give the hon. senator the benefit of the doubt.

• (1510)

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I must first say that I do not find that it is a question of privilege. It may well have been that the Chair moved too quickly in this case. I did not hear it all because, of course, I interrupted the hon. member.

Again, this is one of the difficulties that in an electronic age the Chair is plagued with. It is extremely difficult for me to divine ahead of time what everybody is going to say. Sometimes, if I think I know where somebody is going and I feel it may be going too far, I run the risk, of course, of moving in perhaps too pre-emptory way. However, the hon. member has raised the matter. I will do the very best I can on such matters. It is not a question of privilege. It is a point of order.

I must say to the hon. member, and to all hon. members, that I will do the very best I can in these circumstances.

On the question of the other place, I have reminded hon. members today of what the rule is. Sometimes when certain issues are being discussed in the country and debated here, it may not be an easy rule to apply. I would