

Privilege—Mr. Mazankowski

the country against other regions of the country, and it is a highly insensitive thing for someone to say in this House.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Such sanctimony.

Mr. Nystrom: I would like you to take a look at this matter, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, we can disagree in this House but we do not have to question each other's commitments to our constituencies and our parts of the country, but this sort of thing is particularly bad when it comes from the Prime Minister of Canada, I repeat Canada, the Prime Minister who represents all of us.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): We know the New Democratic Party's piety in public. That is shameful.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville has raised a point of order. I will, of course, consider it. I think I have his point and I do not think I need to hear anything further on that. The Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan).

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a similar point on my own behalf as a Liberal Member who would have been referred to by the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) statement at page 10482 of *Hansard* which reads:

I know that my hon. friends in the Liberal and New Democratic Parties are opposed to the interests of western Canada.

I want as well to draw attention to the imputation of motives to members of my Party and the New Democratic Party.

I respect very much the difficulty in which the Chair is placed when questions of privilege are raised and when, as you have done, Mr. Speaker, a Member has been invited to consider language used in commenting on the remarks of the Prime Minister. I want to urge you also to invite the Prime Minister to consider the statement he made, which was so provocative in imputing motives to Members on the opposite side, and that while it does not justify the statements made and withdrawn, it certainly makes them understandable to the average Canadian. Having given the opportunity to the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) to reflect on his own situation in relation to his words, I hope that the same opportunity will be given to the Prime Minister within the same time frame to reflect on the despicable politics and the unacceptable imputation of motives contained in his words.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York Centre—I think, we will try to stay as procedurally exact as possible—has made a point. It was very much the same point made by the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville. The Government may wish to respond at this point to what has been said in both of those cases. I think that I am probably obligated to hear at least from someone on the government side. I look to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) for guidance as to who will be recognized. The Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark).

Mr. Riis: The nine month wonder is on his feet.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, exactly what point is being discussed in terms of strict procedure. There has not been a question of privilege raised according to the rules as I understand them.

Ms. Mitchell: Do you agree with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney)?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Since there is a debate, let me make two points. One, the language complained of has to do with the Prime Minister's words with regard to the interests of western Canada. As a western Canadian, let me make it clear that the interests of western Canada are very positively and aggressively served by the free trade agreement, which is opposed by both Parties in this House. The interests of western Canada were badly affected by the National Energy Program which was introduced—

Mr. Riis: You are lucky you lasted nine months.

Mr. Speaker: I am very hesitant to interrupt the right hon. gentleman for reasons which are well known in this Chamber, but I have tried to draw the distinction between what may very well be a difference of opinion, which might very well be a part of something for debate with respect to what was said or not said or the exchange, and the strictly procedural responsibility that lies upon the shoulders of the Speaker in this case.

I want to assure the right hon. gentleman that in considering the representation of both the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville and the Hon. Member for York Centre I will be looking very carefully at the exact words which the Right Hon. Prime Minister said. I would ask the co-operation of all Hon. Members in containing this particular discussion, at least as far as is appropriate, within procedural grounds. The difficulties in the questions and answers for the Chair is that they were, in some respects, debate in themselves and they lead on to further debate. I do not think it is in the interests of this particular not very easy series of applications to extend that debate beyond the procedural grounds.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, I certainly not only accept that ruling, as I naturally would, but I agree with it. The point I was trying to make was that no point of order or question of privilege has been adduced and none exists.

Mr. Speaker: I want to assure the right hon. gentleman that I understand perfectly well the position of the Government on this. As I say, I will be looking very carefully at the exact words when I have to decide whether or not who and under what circumstances anybody was out of order or whether privileges had been abridged. However, I think the floor now belongs to the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault).

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, while you are looking at the exact words pronounced in order to make a decision as to whether they breached privilege or whether they constitute a point of order, I submit that,