

keeps this country intact, not just the laws of people in transitory positions of power.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: The hon. member wants me to apply the rule of law; all I have to apply are the rules of this House. If the hon. member bases most of his argumentation on the fact that he will be contaminated by this whole process, then I suggest to him that it is open to him to decontaminate himself by arguing, which he does quite ably, and by amending, debating and by voting against whatever is proposed to this House. That is the proper course for him to follow. He does not have a question of privilege.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. KILGOUR—ALLEGED ILLEGALITIES IN FEDERAL LIBERAL PARTY FUND RAISING—RETRACTION OF REMARKS

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): On a point of order, Madam Speaker. Approximately 15 minutes ago a copy of yesterday's *Hansard* of the Senate was provided to me and I would therefore like to deal with a very serious matter—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I have notice of a question of privilege with respect to this particular matter. I must know whether that question of privilege is being withdrawn.

The hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey).

Mr. Mackasey: Madam Speaker, I would appreciate it if the hon. member would be permitted to proceed with his point of order, so that I may decide whether or not I can withdraw my question of privilege.

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Mr. Kilgour: Madam Speaker, I will be as brief as I can, but this is a very serious matter.

On March 31, you will recall, since you were in the chair, that I made a statement with respect to a matter which I considered to be a question of privilege. I read some correspondence into the record and Your Honour ultimately ruled that I did not have a question of privilege. I would like briefly to refer to a statement made in the Senate by the senator about whom I referred. For purposes of clarity, I wonder if I would be allowed to read that statement into the record?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Kilgour: The senator referred to the correspondence and said:

To clarify the record, I am in no way involved in, and I therefore have no knowledge whatever of, the financial or administrative affairs of the Liberal

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Party of Canada in Alberta. As an ordinary member and supporter, my only financial involvement is that of a modest contributor, which is on public record with the Chief Electoral Officer. In the past six or seven years I have at no time sought contributions for the Liberal Party in any manner whatever. In 1974 and 1975 my principal activity in connection with financing of the party related to the organization of fund-raising dinners. I have never, never engaged in the conduct, related by the honourable member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

I apologize unequivocally to the member of the other place, Senator Hastings. If the senator had only told me in reply to the letter I wrote to him asking for his comments, I can assure hon. members that I would just as soon have jumped from a bridge as make the statement I made. My information is obviously false. Without hesitation, and with the indulgence of all members, particularly the member in the other place, I unequivocally apologize to Senator Hastings for any unfortunate inferences which may have been drawn from my remarks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Lincoln): Madam Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I wish to express my satisfaction with the gesture made by the hon. member opposite today. I think it is a sign of maturity, which is a useful quality for a member of this House to have. I think it would be helpful if more people were prepared to do what the hon. member has just done, which is to retract without hesitation his allegations, which were extremely serious.

Madam Speaker, I just want to read the one paragraph which the hon. member omitted to read from the letter. Senator Hastings said in that letter:

The allegations contained in his letters of March 12 and 26, and his slurring remarks last night in the other place, are totally false and devoid of substance. As a member of the Parliament of Canada, I am conscious of the duties and responsibilities relating to the public office I hold. I can only hope that, as a member of the same Parliament, the honourable member for Edmonton-Strathcona is aware of his duties and responsibilities.

● (1640)

I think the hon. member is aware of his duties and responsibilities, as evidenced by his retraction. I have no intention of pursuing the matter any further by way of point of privilege.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. HNATYSHYN—ALLEGED INTRUSION ON RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I now, at long last, appreciate the opportunity of raising a new and novel question of privilege which, I am glad to report, is unique in that it bears absolutely no relationship to the previous seven or eight questions of privilege. Indeed, it is of very great importance to every hon. member of this Canadian Parliament. I am sure you will find there is a *prima facie* case. I have prepared an appropriate motion to accompany this particular matter when you so find.

I would like to introduce my question of privilege by bringing to the record the statement which I made to you, Madam