

Mr. Crosbie: When I wasn't here.

Mr. Nunziata:—with regard to the takeover of Canadian Pacific by Pacific Western Airlines. I asked a question a number of weeks ago with regard to the number of lay-offs. I was basing the question I asked on an internal confidential memo from a high-ranking official in the Department. In that particular memo it indicated that up to 3,000 jobs could be lost as a result of the takeover. That is 25 per cent of the combined workforce. The Minister stood up in the House and he denied that that number of jobs would be lost. He suggested that I was basing my question on opinion rather than fact. I presented the memorandum to him.

A week later, a second memo came from the Department, this time the memo said there would be few if any jobs lost. I am sorry I do not have the file with me, Mr. Speaker, to give you further information. But the exact quote is "Few if any jobs would be lost". I believe it was Martha Hynna in the Department who wrote that particular memo. I accepted that few if any jobs would be lost. Then we learned on Friday from the president of the new airline that up to 1,900 jobs would be lost.

I looked at the facts and I tried to understand what was going on. We had one memo that said 3,000 jobs were to be lost, another that said few if any. It became obvious to me that the Minister and his Government did not know what they were doing when they endorsed and allowed the takeover to occur.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister has raised a point in which his complaint is that the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) in the preamble to a question in effect made allegations as to things which the Minister said or did not say at another time. He claims that the Member from York South—Weston has his facts wrong. The Hon. Member for York South—Weston was not able to be here for the opening minute of the Minister's remarks, but has risen and in his defence says that he is not satisfied with various answers that have been coming from the Minister's Department.

I understand that the Hon. Minister's complaint is one in which he would ask that Hon. Members be careful at least when referring to what he, the Minister, has said. I am sure that all Hon. Members would want to do that.

However, we are here arguing a dispute over facts. It is not, in the view of the Chair, a question of privilege or, even under these circumstances at least, a question of order. I would, however, ask the Hon. Member for York South—Weston to consider, and I know he will consider, that the Minister's complaint is one voiced by Members on both sides of the Chamber from time to time with respect to remarks made by others. I am sure we will all try to work diligently to be sure that we have good research on the facts before a statement is made. I think that closes off the matter.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which is this. I was quoted in Hansard at page 6537 on Friday by the Hon. Member for York South—Weston who said:

Point of Order—Mr. Crosbie

—I was told by the usually pompous—

I do not care about that.

—Minister of Transport that there would be few if any jobs lost.

The facts, as anyone who looks at *Hansard* can see, is that I did not say "few if any jobs lost". The Member is making a false statement about what I said and nothing could be more serious to a Member of this House. Now the Member does not choose to withdraw that when I point out I did not say this. He chooses to go on with some convoluted argument about how he saw a memo, he saw this and he saw that. But, he never heard me say that there would be few if any jobs lost. I am not prepared to put up with being misquoted deliberately like that.

• (1520)

The hon. gentleman has uttered a falsehood about what I said in the House. He makes it clear today that he made that statement knowingly and willingly. He was lying to the House when he made the statement. That is my position and I will not be satisfied with anything less than the hon. gentleman stating that I did not state what I did not state.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) would want to address the Chamber.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) should use such unparliamentary language in trying to make his point.

Mr. Shields: You're regrettable. We all regret the day you arrived. You brought the level down like you wouldn't believe.

Mr. Gauthier: You charged the Chair now, you better be quiet.

Mr. Nunziata: I would—

Mr. Speaker: I think Hon. Members ought to listen carefully to the interventions that have been made. The Hon. Minister's complaint, which I do not think is a question of privilege, was that the Hon. Member made some comment in a preamble that indicated that the Hon. Minister had said something or not said something on a previous occasion. The Hon. Member has risen and in partial explanation at least said that he had different versions from the Department. These are questions of fact.

If the Hon. Member for York South—Weston would like to assist the Chamber by saying that of course he did not intend any deliberate misinterpretation of the Minister, that would probably be helpful. At the same time, the Minister might also indicate that he is quite prepared to withdraw the charge that the Hon. Member is deliberately lying. If I could have both those positions taken, it might end the matter at least with some dignity.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, if I could explain the question I asked on Friday, I was faced with a number of facts which can