

*Privilege—Mr. Shields*

**Madam Speaker:** I do not feel that this is a question of privilege. The hon. member was seeking clarification, and the minister did give some clarification today, but I think the best way to deal with this question is to try to ask a question in question period.

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**POINT OF ORDER**

MR. McMILLAN—STATEMENT MADE BY MR. FOX

**Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I will be very brief. In the oral question period I posed two questions to the Secretary of State (Mr. Fox) concerning the established programs financing scheme. In reply to my questions I believe the minister might inadvertently have misled the House. He probably would not want that misleading information on the public record.

In my preamble I said that under the established programs financing scheme, \$3 billion is funnelled to the provinces to help them pay the operating costs of post-secondary education institutions. In his reply to my questions the Secretary of State said that established programs financing included federal funds to provinces through cash payments and through tax points and that I perhaps had not included the tax points in my own calculation of \$3 billion. I might refer the minister and the House to the Government of Canada's own statement of financial operations for the fiscal year 1980-81, of November, 1980.

That statement makes it clear that the \$3 billion figure I quoted includes both cash payments, amounting to a total of about \$1.6 billion, and tax points, totalling about \$1.4 billion. That is for the fiscal year 1980-81. I am sure that the Secretary of State would not want to leave those figures he quoted on the public record because they are clearly wrong. The figure is not \$4 billion but, rather, \$3 billion.

**Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):** I would like to verify the exact amounts. I know that they are indeed considerable. If we add to established programs financing post-secondary transfers of funds and tax points the amount of money the federal government puts into the Canada student loans program, the bilingualism in education program and other programs related to education, the amount would remain quite substantial, but I would just like to check the figures and to come up with the exact total amounts transferred to the provinces by the federal government in terms both of tax points and tax transfers.

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**PRIVILEGE**

MR. SHIELDS—STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MR. LALONDE

**Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I refer to a statement quoted today by me regarding an hon. member who made a statement which I feel

demeans every member in this House in the eyes of the free world. It affects every member's relations with the United States of America, and particularly with the new administration. The statement demeans the members of this House who are members of a parliamentary committee which shortly will be visiting the United States and the new administration. The statement I quoted this morning during question period was as follows:

At least they didn't bring in the CIA like they have in other foreign countries.

I feel that that statement made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) clearly reflects on every member of this House with respect to relations with the countries of the free world, particularly the United States. I ask you, Madam Speaker, to direct the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to withdraw that statement immediately so that all members of this House may deal directly with our strongest ally and friend, the United States, in the open and friendly manner we have enjoyed up to this point.

**Madam Speaker:** I had to listen to the hon. member in order to know what his question of privilege was. To begin with, it is not a question of privilege. Second, he was referring to a statement made outside the House, which certainly does not constitute a question of privilege. I think the hon. member is stretching the rules quite a lot today. I ask him to read the rules so that he can understand what a question of privilege allows him to do. However, he has made a point.

MR. OBERLE—STATEMENT MADE BY MR. TRUDEAU

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Madam Speaker, with your indulgence I would just like to add another dimension to the question of privilege of my hon. friend.

**Madam Speaker:** I am sorry. It is not a question of privilege. I have already dealt with that matter. Unless the hon. member wants to raise a new question of privilege—he did not give me notice, and his question of privilege does not seem to flow from the deliberations of today—I do not see how he can smuggle in a question of privilege at this time. However, he may have a point.

**Mr. Oberle:** Madam Speaker, I have a new question of privilege. In response to the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields), the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said that in speaking to a group of native people in Alberta his minister made a stupid statement which does not deserve comment. That is what I took the Prime Minister's answer to my friend, the hon. member for Athabasca, to mean. The Prime Minister, by attributing stupid statements to him, has certainly affected the privilege of a member.

● (1210)

This is not the first statement of this kind that the minister has made. He made a statement in committee a couple of days ago, when he was questioned about the difference between a 25 per cent government ownership in a certain industry and the practice of other countries, in which he said that this was