

Privilege

Mr. Nault: How much money did you make?

Mr. Mazankowski: I am deeply disappointed at the cheap political tactics of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition who should know better.

Ms. Copps: Out, out, out.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Why don't you get the Prime Minister up on his feet?

Mr. Beatty: Back to the cameras, John.

Ms. Copps: If the heat gets too high he will cut him loose.

Mr. Speaker: I would remind the Hon. Members that despite the seriousness with which all Hon. Members view this matter, it is still a question of privilege, and I would ask the Hon. Members to assist the Chair in that regard.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): He is provoking his own reaction.

Mr. Mazankowski: The Government took every step available to fulfil the parliamentary traditions in every respect.

An Hon. Member: Remember Stevens?

Ms. Copps: Stevens. He's coming back too.

Mr. Mazankowski: It is customary that Budgets be presented to the House, but there have been deviations, as I have outlined in the case of Mr. Douglas Abbott, and in the extraordinary circumstances that prevailed last evening it required co-operation and goodwill on the part of all Members of this House in order to deal with this issue—

Ms. Copps: If the heat gets too high he will cut him loose.

Mr. Mazankowski: —and that was not forthcoming.

We hear a lot about goodwill and we hear a lot about co-operation, and you and I know that this House cannot function without a certain amount of goodwill and co-operation, and I have heard it from you and I have heard it from Members across, and in cases where there are extraordinary circumstances, that is when this institution really lives to the fullest. I am sorry to say that it did not do that last night primarily because of the lack of co-operation of the two Leaders of the Opposition.

Ms. Copps: It was already on TV. It's a big leak.

Mr. Mazankowski: What we have here is a classical case of political opportunism.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Exactly.

Mr. Tobin: The last time you were this articulate was on behalf of Sinclair Stevens. We have heard it before.

Mr. Mazankowski: I am sure most Canadians will interpret it that way. It is a case of political chicanery, and I say to the Leader of the Opposition that he is not serving Canada and he is not serving the public interest of Canada by his actions. I doubt very much that he is even serving his own political interests, and I am not sure what his political interests are these days, but he is certainly not serving the interests of Canada.

Mr. Gauthier: Cheap shot.

Some Hon. Members: Cheap, cheap, cheap.

Mr. Gauthier: Look at the smile on his face.

Ms. Copps: Don't you have the guts to stand up, Brian? Why don't you stand up and defend your Minister?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Are you feeling all right, Sheila?

Ms. Copps: We know you will cut him loose.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Feeling all right, Sheila?

Mr. Gauthier: You can't.

Mr. Mazankowski: In extraordinary circumstances this institution comes together. We have talked about the case in 1968 when Mr. Stanfield rose above partisan interests and came to the call of the public interest of Canada, and I say to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that that is what he should be doing now.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): You were against him at that time. You thought it was the wrong move too. I remember what you thought.

Mr. Mulroney: He says it was the wrong move.

Mr. Mazankowski: I know that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has had more parliamentary experience than I have, he was here when I came here in 1968, and I always respected his commitment to this institution.

An Hon. Member: But you stayed.

Mr. Mazankowski: He has always demonstrated his commitment to this institution and he was always an excellent parliamentarian, and I think he still is, but I ask him on this occasion to rise above political partisanship.