

to check his facts. On more than one occasion he has deliberately misled the House and misled the people of Canada—typical NDP crap.

**Ms. Copps:** Madam Speaker—

**Mr. Cassidy:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Hon. Member for Hamilton East was seeking the floor.

**Mr. Cassidy:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre on a point of order.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Madam Speaker, thank you for recognizing me. I ask Your Honour for your advice. To accuse another Member of deliberately misrepresenting, I believe, is unparliamentary. I would appreciate a ruling on that. If it is unparliamentary would the Chair ask the Hon. Member to retract his comment?

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands was seeking the floor?

**Mr. Manly:** On the same point of order, Madam Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** At this point in time the Hon. Member for York South—Weston, I must agree albeit in an amusing way, or in a light tone, has used words that should not be used in the House of Commons. I am sure that he will find a way to withdraw.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Madam Speaker, yes, I will withdraw the word “crap” as perhaps not being parliamentary. However, the Hon. Member made the statement that I was an NDP alderman. That is a falsehood. It is a lie. It is a misrepresentation. I refer to that statement. I am not calling him a liar or someone who might spread falsehoods or misrepresentations. The fact that he made the statement speaks for itself.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Shameless piece of pettifoggery.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Madam Speaker, I do believe that you asked the Hon. Member to withdraw some other words. Perhaps that could be dealt with now.

**Ms. Copps:** Why don't you withdraw your falsehood?

**Mr. Cassidy:** If he wishes to intervene again, he can indicate whether or not he was ever a member of the NDP.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Chair feels it is a sad case that we would have returned this afternoon to the subject which I had hoped would be closed after the exchange

### *Excise Tax Act*

this morning. When the hon. gentleman for Ottawa Centre was recognized on a question I would have thought that we would be staying within the relevant elements of the Bill at hand. However, I wish that the Hon. Member who has spoken about misleading the House will please withdraw.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Madam Speaker, I do not want to waste the time of the House of Commons. I think the people of Canada will understand what has occurred here in typical NDP fashion. However, for your sake and for your sake alone, Madam Speaker, I will withdraw whatever you consider to be offensive and unparliamentary. As they say in Latin *res ipsa loquitur*.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

**Ms. Copps:** Madam Speaker, I actually had a question for the Hon. Member relating to a previous subject. It is amazing how members of the NDP have such incredibly thin skins. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) was not satisfied to spread false statements this morning; he had to come back and repeat the same falsehoods this afternoon. When challenged he hid behind the shroud of parliamentary decency to claim that there is a withdrawal. Do Hon. Members hear the Hon. Member stand up and say: “I am wrong. I am sorry. I falsely accused the Hon. Member”? No, he hides behind the so-called parliamentary practice: “Yes, I cannot call anybody a scoundrel. I cannot call anybody a scalawag. It is okay if you call them any other kind of 20th century name”.

In any case, my question relates to the question of long-distance telephone calls.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Ms. Copps:** There is one issue that I do not wish to remain on the public record. My friend and colleague, the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria), was perfectly correct when he said that the imposition of a 10 per cent tax was a tax on rural Canadians. However, he may also be aware, and this is one thing I wanted to point out to my hon. friend from York South—Weston, that not only does it discriminate against rural people; it also discriminates against Canadians living in suburban communities.

For example, I have a sister living in Dundas. The area around Hamilton is not even as large in circumference and population as is Ottawa. However, if one is living in Dundas and wants to phone one's brother in Stoney Creek, one has to pay a long-distance charge. That is different from the City of Toronto where one can call 2.5 million people without using long distance. However, in many suburban areas and other communities long distance must be used.

Does the Hon. Member not agree that not only does this measure discriminate against rural Canadians, it also discriminates against those Canadians living in communities such as Dundas, Stoney Creek, and in the Niagara region?