

*Business of the House***BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Everybody in the Chamber knows that the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) would never do such a dastardly thing. I notice that the Right Hon. Member has immediately stood up and said that he withdrew any such imputation. I think perhaps the Chair has intervened just in the nick of time to save the honour of all Hon. Members.

**Ms. Copps:** I didn't hear it.

**Mr. Tobin:** Let's hear him, Mr. Speaker, on the record.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) will put his withdrawal on the record.

**Mr. Shields:** Let the rat pack hear it on the record, Joe.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, I want to put my withdrawal on the record.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps we could come back to the application. The Chair has heard the interventions of Hon. Members. As the Chair has said, the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) has succinctly put forward the procedural law. There seems to be some difference of opinion in the Chamber as to what was said, or what was quoted from. The Chair will examine the transcript and will do the best it can to be sure that the rules of this House are followed. I will report back to the Chamber.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I rise on a point of order on a very important interpretation of that custom. When Ministers of the Crown quote from a document, they are traditionally expected to table that document, but not back-benchers. I think that the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) was extending his thoughts a little too far in pretending that back-benchers and ordinary MPs would have to table their questions. It would accelerate the procedures of the House, but I am sure it is not in the rules right now.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I know of no standing order or rule of procedure that suggests that a Minister when making notes, or having notes in front of him for the purpose of answering a question, has to table them. Official documents, yes; non-official documents, no. That should be clarified.

**Ms. Copps:** When quoting from a document, any document.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray). I am sure that he is advising me wisely on a different point of order.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Not only am I rising on a totally different point of order, but I suspect it will be one that will even meet the support and consent of the Government House Leader (Mr. Mazankowski). I am simply asking him to give the normal weekly statement of government business.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** The Hon. Member in his preamble implies that in future before he raises a point of order he will get my concurrence. I would not expect that, but it is a rather nice precedent for the day anyway.

● (1520)

**Ms. Copps:** Wait until next week.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Perhaps the Hon. Member behind you, who seems to be more vocal from her seat than when she stands, might want to answer that question.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister will conclude his remarks.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, with regard to House business, today we will continue with Bill C-37, followed by Bill C-18 and Bill C-19.

**Mr. Shields:** Can you imagine being married to that?

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. One of the faceless Alberta Members from whom we hear very little on a general basis says: "Can you imagine being married to that?" That particular statement, while not quoted as unparliamentary in the nineteenth century parliamentary procedures book which we have at the moment, should certainly be withdrawn in the same manner as the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) withdrew his remark.

**An Hon. Member:** Right on.

**Mr. Speaker:** Just a moment.

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Shields, Mr. Shields.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members will please accept the Chair's invitation to order.

The Chair did not hear the words complained of. They are properly complained of. I would expect the Hon. Member who said those words, or something close to them, to withdraw them.

**Mr. Shields:** I would like to withdraw that.