

*Supply*

our population who are obese like me, I wish he would have the guts to do so publicly and suffer the consequences. If he wants to attack all the fat people in this country—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean):**—I didn't mean it that way. I just wanted to describe what we saw on television, because you know how the camera zeroes in on the Member who has the floor here in the House. I was never my intention to make disparaging remarks. However, Mr. Speaker, calling people all kinds of names, and this goes for Members on this side as well if they should feel like doing so—calling people dummies, miss comports, profiteers, soap stars, and so on, well, Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie has demonstrated that he could, if you will, make his presence felt, that he could debate and make speeches, but for the sake of all Canadian men and women I would urge him to show more respect for this House. Mr. Speaker, this has degenerated into a shameful spectacle. He said earlier that the Minister of State (Youth) (Mrs. Champagne)—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but I would like to recognize someone else on a comment. So I will give the floor to the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) and ask him to be brief, then I will recognize the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger) on a short question or comment.

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, to each his own style, his own way of defending cases, his own corpulence. I am like I am, but my reputation is as good as that of the Hon. Member who just spoke. Sad to say, had I not acted as I did to defend the interests of the elderly in the case of old age pensions, these people would no longer be getting fully indexed old age pension cheques. Had I not acted in my own way with respect to people who suffer from diabetes, these people would now be paying a tax on syringes and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, the only people who will pass judgment on my behaviour are my constituents and, at the last election they treated me fair and square and re-elected me.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I will recognize the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger) for the last question or comment.

**Mr. Blaikie:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger), I think that if you check the Standing Orders you will see that in the question and comment period, the opportunities for questions or comments are to go to Members of Parties other than the person who is speaking unless, of course, no such Hon. Member is rising, then an Hon. Member from the Party of the person who is speaking might be recognized. In this case, there are other Hon. Members from other Parties rising and I see no reason why you should recognize the Hon. Member for Laurier.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The point made by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) is well taken. The way the Chair interprets the provisions to which the Hon. Member refers is that preference should be given to Hon. Members other than the one who has spoken. I do not understand that as meaning uniquely. I recognized the first Hon. Member, I believe, from the Progressive Conservative Party, then an Hon. Member from the New Democratic Party, then an Hon. Member from the Progressive Conservative Party. I think it is only fair that the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger) should be allowed a brief question.

**Mr. Blaikie:** I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, and I am not trying to be difficult, but this has happened before. When two Hon. Members rise—and in this case at least two or three Hon. Members rose to participate in the question and comment period—the Standing Orders say the Chair should prefer Hon. Members of a Party other than that of the Hon. Member who spoke. In this case the Chair preferred to recognize the Hon. Member for Laurier, who is a Member of the Party of the person who was speaking.

I was a party to the drafting of those Standing Orders and to the recommendation, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the intention was that as long as there were members of Parties other than the Hon. Member who last spoke rising, an Hon. Member from the Party who just spoke ought not to be recognized.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I understand very well the representations made by the Hon. Member. I would be willing to discuss this matter with him. But it is not the way I understood the Standing Orders. I know the Hon. Member is well versed on procedure and was on the committee. However, for this time I will recognize the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger). I would be willing to discuss this matter with the Hon. Member at some time in the future.

[Translation]

**Mr. Berger:** Briefly, Mr. Speaker, I should like to support the comments made by my colleagues this afternoon by giving a few examples from my riding.

Last week I met with the young students of a theatre company, students who attend the *École nationale de théâtre* in my riding. They had applied for a \$23,000 Government grant representing 35 per cent of the total cost of a project they had prepared to create summer jobs. They were able to get about \$12,000 from the private sector. They took the initiative of canvassing hundreds of companies, and very seldom do we see students who can manage to get the private sector to contribute that kind of money. So they were asking the Government not to finance the whole operation but only to give some support to their own efforts and add a little more to the funds they had been able to obtain from private interests. But what happened? The project was not given priority because it did not come from the private sector.