

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The answer is no.

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### THE ADMINISTRATION

#### DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER—REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REFERRAL

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. The integrity of the Government and Parliament is under a shadow. Would the Prime Minister concede that the Deputy Prime Minister should be tried by his own peers in front of the Committee on Privileges and Elections?

**Mr. McDermid:** Lay a charge!

**Mr. Marchi:** Will the Prime Minister concede to Parliament, in the spirit of civility and parliamentary reform, that the admissions of guilt be investigated by his peers in this House—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order, please. First, that question has been asked. Second, the Hon. Member knows that there is a route through which he may request the consent of the House with regard to a matter going to the committee.

**Mr. Marchi:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a question on a different matter, or a different question on this matter?

**Mr. Marchi:** Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to ask the Prime Minister if he has the courage to rise in his place and send this matter to a committee of Parliament so that parliamentarians—

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

**Mr. Marchi:** Well, Mr. Speaker, what the hell are we here for?

● (1500)

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

**An Hon. Member:** What's wrong with that?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. First, it is the same question.

**Ms. Copps:** It's a different question!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Second, the Hon. Member knows that questions of privilege are not the responsibility of the Government; they are the responsibility of the House. A question with regard to that matter is not a matter of ministerial accountability and is therefore out of order.

Presenting Reports from Standing—

**Ms. Copps:** Double-talk from the Speaker's Chair!

### Point of Order—Mr. Gauthier

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member from Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) will withdraw that comment.

**Ms. Copps:** I withdraw.

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### CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, January 29, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

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### POINT OF ORDER

#### CONFIDENTIALITY OF CAUCUS MEETINGS—ASSURANCES SOUGHT FROM MR. SPEAKER

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Like many people in the House, I would like to raise a point—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier. I will wait until the House quietyens and clears. Those who wish to leave, please do. There will be a few minutes, I suspect, on this matter.

The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier.

**Mr. Gauthier:** As you know, Mr. Speaker, I occupy the position of Whip in my Party. There are others in other Parties who do the same thing. One of the basic obligations I have as Whip is to ensure that our deliberations, the workings of this caucus, are restricted to this caucus. I want an assurance from you, Mr. Speaker—because I cannot ask the Government the question—that our deliberations as a caucus in this parliamentary precinct are indeed not being interfered with, intervened in, or, for that matter, listened to by anybody else but the ones to whom they are directed, that is, members of my caucus.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member raises an important matter, one which I think all three Parties have taken seriously. Whenever a Party has asked the Speaker to have offices or caucus rooms checked, or swept, we have, of course, done so immediately. I received that type of request this morning from the Chairman of the Liberal Caucus. My instructions to the Sergeant-at-Arms were that that request be acceded to immediately, and steps have been taken to make sure that that was done. The Chair is happy to do that for any caucus at any time.

May I say to the Hon. Member this. Nobody can give the Hon. Member the assurance that somebody standing outside this building in some way, with electronic eavesdropping