

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1500)

Mr. Trudeau: I think we should attempt to be as polite to each other in this room as we would be outside it, Madam Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fraser: That is the pot calling the kettle black.

USE OF MINISTERIAL OFFICE AND STATIONERY

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, is it the position of the Prime Minister of Canada that it is appropriate for the office of the Solicitor General of Canada and the stationery of the Solicitor General of Canada to be used to influence a judge directly or indirectly?

Mr. Nielsen: In a criminal trial.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, that is a repetition of the previous question.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): No, it is not.

Mr. Trudeau: I said that every witness influences a judge indirectly—

[*Translation*]

Mr. La Salle: It was the Solicitor General, not just any witness.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time and we cannot hear the answer. If hon. members are interested, I shall again give the floor to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Trudeau: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The member for Joliette seems to have made a habit of constantly shouting across the floor because he has neither the courage nor the intelligence to rise in the House.

Mr. La Salle: At least I am not trying to obstruct justice!

Mr. Trudeau: Does the hon. member wish to make charges?

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I must ask the Right Hon. Prime Minister to answer the question put by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and perhaps ignore for the time being what the member for Joliette is saying, since he does not have the floor. The hon. member for Joliette.

Mr. La Salle: I am not trying to obstruct justice. That is what I am saying.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I must say that if in the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Joliette, testifying in an open court like any other witness is to tamper with justice, then, Madam Speaker, I would say yes.

Mr. La Salle: The Right Hon. Prime Minister is not answering the question.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I—

Madam Speaker: Order.

* * *

[*English*]

PRIVILEGE

MR. COLLENETTE—ALLEGED IMPUTING OF MOTIVES BY MR. THACKER

Mr. D. M. Collette (York East): Madam Speaker, you may recall that earlier this day I did give you notice of a question of privilege concerning a matter that took place yesterday during the debates in the House of Commons. I refer Your Honour to pages 17733, 17734 and 17737 of *Hansard* for May 25, 1982. At the time the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) had the floor on an opposition day motion. He stated, as reported on page 17733:

The fault lies directly with the cabinet but also with Liberal backbenchers. At the time of each vote in this House they choose to protect their personal incomes rather than choosing to vote against cabinet schemes which aggravate and cause problems rather than solve them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Collette: Perhaps the applause from the other side underlines the fact that I should rise today and express this case. I rose immediately I heard these words yesterday. Mr. Deputy Speaker was in the chair and was engaged in a conversation with the Clerk of the House. Unfortunately, he did not hear the exact exchange of views. Subsequently, in all courtesy, I waited until the end of the hon. member's speech and I rose again to make the case to the Acting Speaker who was then in the chair. It is my contention, Madam Speaker, that the words spoken by the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills yesterday constitute a question of privilege for myself and for other backbenchers especially on this side of the House, but indeed, for all members in this House.

I draw your attention to Beauchesne's Citation 316(e) and (i). This citation reads:

Besides the prohibitions contained in S.O. 35, it has been sanctioned by usage that a Member, while speaking, must not:

- (e) impute bad motives or motives different from those acknowledged to a Member;
- (i) reflect upon the past acts and proceedings of the House.

This is substantiated in Beauchesne's Citation 319(3) which reads as follows:

In the House of Commons a member will not be permitted by the Speaker to indulge in any reflections on the House itself as a political institution; or to impute to any member or members unworthy motives for their actions in a particular case; or to use any profane or indecent language; or to question the acknowledged and undoubted powers of the House in a matter of privilege; or to