

*Privilege*

I also ask the House to give the member, whose reputation and possibly actions are being placed into doubt by some members of this House, a chance to defend himself in this House at an appropriate time. He is not here today.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you reserve on your judgment until the member has had a chance to explain to the House what happened that day. I think that would be a fair way to proceed.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I want to intervene briefly in this matter.

At the outset, I want to echo the words of the Opposition House Leader in saying that we all deplore what happened in the gallery yesterday. This House is not a place for that kind of activity. We regret that some of the other spectators in the gallery were perhaps not only inconvenienced but in danger during the course of those events.

I believe it is appropriate for us to wait until the member for Scarborough—Agincourt is in the House in order that he may rise in his place to offer his own defence to the suggestion or allegation that he knowingly permitted such an event to occur.

• (1510)

I would, however, suggest that there is a broader issue here. Members of both the government and the opposition have the privilege of having their guests seated in special galleries. The procedures of the House and the procedures of security allow us to have our guests escorted by security people. They need not go through the metal detector. They need not go through the screening that is required of those individuals who sit in the public galleries. We might wish to examine that as a part of a broader issue.

My final point, which may be considered as a separate intervention, is that members of the government, particularly those who sit opposite the New Democratic Party benches, by actions and words last night, although not recorded in *Hansard*, clearly impugned the motives of members of this side of the House. I am told by other members, in particular the member for Skeena, that members of the Conservative caucus approached him and suggested that he was responsible for that occurrence.

**Mr. Speaker:** I know the hon. member would accept the Chair's suggestion that if there is another issue, and there may well be, that it ought to be raised at another time.

However, we have a very specific difficulty in front of the House. I have listened very carefully to the hon. parliamentary secretary who has given us a statement of facts with which I think all hon. members are in agreement.

The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier has put forward a qualification that the member who may or may not have been implicated in this matter is not here. At the suggestion of the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier this matter should at least be adjourned until our colleague can come into the House. I noticed that that suggestion met with very marked approval on both sides of the House.

The hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan raises some matters which I think are of very acute concern to this House and to the Speaker with respect to security. I think that that might well be looked into at some appropriate time, depending on how I may ultimately rule.

The hon. member is making another point. I know that the hon. member will go along with the Speaker in resting that point, at least for the moment. He may want to raise it as a separate point at another time.

The hon. House Leader for the government wishes to rise, and I would be most prepared to hear him.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say very quickly that I concur with the recommendation of the House leader of the Liberal party, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier, that in fact until the hon. member has an opportunity to make his statement in the House we should forgo any judgment as to evidence.

I would also underline as you did, Sir, in your comments, that this reminds us of security questions because what was paper could well have been something else by virtue of the fact that we as members have the privilege of bypassing the metal detectors and other security measures for the general public when we bring in or allow guests to come in under our passes. That is something that may well have to be re-examined in view of the circumstances.