

*Point of Order—Mr. Attewell*

in the Province of Quebec, or in the Province of Ontario for that matter.

\* \* \*

**POINT OF ORDER**

## ALLEGED USE OF UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, the type of language which is sometimes used in this House, I believe, brings from time to time disrespect to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), other Members of Cabinet and all of us as colleagues. It is disrespect certainly for Parliament which is the highest body in this land.

I distinctly heard the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) use the word “fraud” after the Prime Minister had replied to a question. I looked up the word “fraud” in the Oxford dictionary on the Clerk’s table. It describes “fraud” as “deceitfulness, dishonest trick or stratagem, dishonest contrivance”. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to bring the full weight of your office to bear so that we elevate the conduct of this House to the proper—

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

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Am I to understand the Hon. Member for Don Valley East (Mr. Attewell) to say he heard the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) accuse the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) or another Member of being a fraud?

**Mr. Attewell:** I heard the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) call the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) a fraud.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I take it no one else is intervening on this point of order, in which case I will of course—the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans)?

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, my quick reading of Beauchesne’s would lead me to believe that the use of that word has been ruled both parliamentary and unparliamentary, but most frequently to be parliamentary.

**Mr. Speaker:** I did not hear the words put in exactly the way the Hon. Member is suggesting.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I think the weight of precedents with respect to the rulings of previous Speakers regarding the word in question would be such that the Chair could easily find that the word is parliamentary. In any event, I suggest there has to be more than the allegation of the Hon. Member opposite to connect that word with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). Although the Hon. Member

opposite may have his conclusions, I hope his colleagues do not agree with him in that regard.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** On the same point of order?

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, when you are considering the point of order just raised, I would like you to consider this; on the one hand an Hon. Member can be put out of the House for questioning the truth of another Hon. Member in the House.

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

**Mr. Forrestall:** Withdraw.

**Mr. Allmand:** On the other hand—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member is dealing with this point of order, please.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, I would like you to also consider that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) can stand up and say that the Liberal Party takes great joy in the loss of jobs in British Columbia and the rules will not allow us to do anything about it. Yet the Speaker can put people out of the House for much less than that. That is the kind of place this is becoming.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The fact that we are now carrying on like this indicates that the complaint about language generally is clearly true.

I did not hear the matter complained of. Of course, under the circumstances, I will reserve.

Let me say to the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East (Mr. Allmand) that the Chair does not ever happily do what was done today. That is why the Chair goes to some length to try to explain the dilemma the Chair is in when the Chair has heard such a matter. The Chair tries to give the Hon. Member involved in such a thing time to withdraw, as the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East knows personally, with respect.

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have indicated I will reserve.

**Mr. Lewis:** Yes, I am sorry, in the by-play I did not catch that. I would just ask, since it has been pointed out that rulings have gone both ways, that the Chair take it in the context of the way it was in the House today and decide whether we are going to deal with this as a precedent or as a principle, and what kind of a House we want this to be.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.