

Privilege—Ms. Copps

We hope she will be here shortly". In fact, the Minister was well aware of the fact that I was not going to be arriving on time. The Minister went on to say, in the context of the debate and questions surrounding what is on and what is off the table on the trade deal: "No wonder her book was entitled *Nobody's Baby*. Apparently our Canadian womanhood is in severe danger. They would have to creep around the country with their knees crossed if Sheila is correct", and then he was booed on his remarks. In fact, he was booed right out of the auditorium.

At that time I really had no intention of raising the issue in the House because I considered the source of the comment and it really was not worth raising.

Mr. Shields: Are you kidding?

Ms. Copps: However, subsequent to that, the self-same Minister went to the St. John's Board of Trade where he made similar ignorant comments—

Mr. Thacker: Stop whining and sniveling.

Ms. Copps: —about myself, about a Roman Catholic nun, about Canadian womanhood in general, and in particular he made very disparaging remarks about the fight against pornography. He said—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Earlier today the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) put some questions to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) with respect to some allegations about what the Hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) had said and the Hon. Minister of Transport replied.

The difficulty I have with respect to a question of privilege is that, at least up until this moment, the Hon. Member for Hamilton East is referring to alleged comments made outside the Chamber which, whatever one may think of them, I do not think come within the scope of privilege. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East may have reference to something said in this Chamber, and if she is getting to that I will hear it and then I might have to rule on it.

• (1510)

I would ask the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Ms. Dewar) to keep in mind the procedural difficulties the Chair may be in. The Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) on a point of order?

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, just a few moments ago the Hon. Member for Lethbridge (Mr. Thacker) referring to the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) said, and I quote, "Get out of the kitchen" or, "Go back to the kitchen".

Some Hon. Members: He didn't say that.

Mr. Nunziata: Yes, he did.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Nunziata: Stop lying.

Ms. Copps: He said go back to the kitchen.

Mr. Shields: He said get out of the kitchen if you can't stand the heat.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps if all Hon. Members, until they are recognized, constrain their desire to get into this debate we might be able to sort out the issues and I might even be able to settle the matter to everybody's satisfaction.

The Hon. Member for York South—Weston is rising on a point of order. What exactly is the point of order?

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, just a few moments ago—and I would ask you to check blues to confirm what we heard on this side of the House—the Hon. Member for Lethbridge (Mr. Thacker) said to the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) to get back to the kitchen.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Nunziata: —and he ran away. I would ask you to review the blues to determine whether or not those were the words spoken.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member may or may not have said that. I certainly will look at the blues to see whether there was anything said which was out of order. In the meantime, I am hearing the comments of the Hon. Member for Hamilton East and I will recognize her again.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, seek the guidance of the Chair because I do not want to belabour the point. I can take the kind of personal insults which the Minister of Transport levels on a regular basis. I can take it and I can certainly dish it out.

Mr. Crosbie: Crybaby.

Ms. Copps: At the same time when the Minister of Transport representing the Government of Canada is sent out on a speaking tour which goes from one coast to the other and makes ignorant disparaging remarks—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): How is this privilege?

Ms. Copps: —about Canadian women, I think there should be some recourse in terms of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: I certainly understand the point of the Hon. Member. The Chair is, of course, bound by procedural matters. I have to advise her that there are ways and means to ask the Government to respond to this sort of thing. The Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) did just that in Question Period. There may be other imaginative means.