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OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Speaker: The Honourable Peter Milliken

Privilege

Alleged Complaint of a Theft

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester—Musquodoboit Valley, Ind.):

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege and I hope to be able to present a prima facie case that my privileges as a member of Parliament and even as a Canadian citizen have been breached.

I never thought that I would stand in the House and have to defend myself against false accusations of theft and embezzlement, and I can hardly say the words.

Last Thursday a member of the press, Hugo de Grandpré from *La Presse*, called my office and asked if there was any update on the charges against me on the accusation of embezzlement

Hon. Geoff Regan (Halifax West, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my own comments and support of my colleague and friend from Cumberland—Colchester—Musquodoboit Valley. We are an adversarial political system in Canada. There are different points of view. We fight hard and we campaign hard, but there are lines we do not cross. We have talked in recent months about the need to try to improve decorum in this House, to try to work together as cooperatively as possible within this adversarial system.

I think that members here for the most part, perhaps all I hope, would agree that what happened here is not appropriate. This is clearly a smear campaign, an attempt to smear the hon. member's reputation based on a false accusation. He set out the facts of the case. I think we can all recognize this is a false accusation. It is entirely inappropriate. It goes beyond the pale and I support his argument that it infringes on his privileges as a member of Parliament.