

Privilege—Mr. Korchinski

[English]

POINT OF ORDER

MR. MACKAY—RESPONSIBILITY FOR CALURA

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, I rise on a brief point of order. I would be grateful if the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais), or the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston), would clear up what appears to be an ambiguity. That is to say, we have two part-time ministers responsible for Statistics Canada, and also for the federal government's economic and industrial statistics. The order in council to which I am referring is dated June 13, 1980, and it refers to the responsibility of the Minister of Supply and Services and also designates him to have responsibilities under the Financial Administration Act. But, as the House knows, a very important part of Statistics Canada is the tabulation of the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, known as CALURA. It appears that the Minister of Supply and Services who is responsible for Statistics Canada has his authority under the Statistics Act, but there is some question in my mind, and perhaps in the minds of other members, as to who is responsible for CALURA reports.

I am wondering whether the House leader, the President of the Treasury Board, the Minister of Supply and Services, or someone, could enlighten the House, myself in particular, as to who is officially responsible for CALURA. Does anyone know?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, the authorization that I have received includes responsibility for CALURA.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. KORCHINSKI—RECOGNITION DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, I have a question of privilege. It is with the deepest regret that I have to rise in my place concerning my inability to pose a supplementary question. Your Honour knows that last week my office telephoned your office with the intention of notifying you that I had a question which I wanted to pose. I have waited for four days, rising like a yoyo in my seat, and finally I was informed that I was on some sort of a preferred list. I did not realize that there were different categories of members in the House, that there was a first level, second level, or a third level of members.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Korchinski: The point is that I have a very serious question to pose which I consider must be taken up on behalf of my constituents. My constituents have no one else to go to but, rightly or wrongly, they chose me. They chose me for 22 years, not because I sat in my seat not being able to pose a question, but because I did work.

Perhaps there is some sort of a working arrangement between I do not know who and the Chair. If that is the case, then I would like to know why it is that a senior member cannot rise in his place and be given equal time to that given to another member who is allowed to pose supplementary questions. It does not matter whether they are on the front benches or in a circular firing squad, whatever it is, the point is that as a member I represent 50,000 or 60,000 people and occasionally I have a question to ask of a minister.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Korchinski: On another occasion I rose to ask a question and I was recognized, but again only for one question. I sat patiently. I went through this all through the last session. I was only allowed a few questions. I went to see the previous speaker on two occasions in his office and I wondered what was going on, what was wrong with the way my questions were phrased, or why it was that the representative of Mackenzie was not allowed to be heard.

I sat here patiently, hoping I would not have to bring this matter up publicly. I regret, Madam Speaker, having to rise now but I do not intend to sit here for four years waiting for somebody to pull a string. I am not in the habit of being a puppet, and I do not intend to be that at this time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: The time has come for me to lay down some of the facts, and I do have the facts because I keep very careful statistics of how many backbenchers I recognize, how many frontbenchers, how many members of the Conservative party, of the NDP, and of the Liberals. I study them every day because, the next day, if something had happened to create some sort of imbalance, I want to correct it immediately. As I said before, I apply instant justice in the House, and instant justice sometimes has to be revised. If I find that the balance has been tilted to one side or the other, I try to correct it immediately the next day. Thus, I have before me every morning the statistics of the question period of the day before, and they make a mockery of statements that have been made to the effect that backbenchers are not recognized because I do not know their names. For your information, I know all your names now and all your constituencies.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) said that he has risen like a yoyo for three or four days, but I have to tell him that he is not the only one.

I do feel sorry for those who have to rise constantly but do not manage to get on the list which I make. Therefore, the hon. member must be patient because every member in the House wants to be recognized on questions of national interest, or even questions concerning his constituency. I try to be fair, and I could bring out the statistics regarding the hon. member so as to find out whether he has been recognized less than the others. But I do not think so.