

*Point of Order—Mr. Cossitt*

**Madam Speaker:** I gave that answer and explanation to the hon. member. "The House resumed at 8 p.m." *Hansard* does not say that the debate started at eight o'clock.

**Mr. Taylor:** A point of order. The House did not—

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Cossitt) on a new point of order.

## MR. COSSITT—RINGING OF BELLS BEFORE SITTINGS

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville):** Madam Speaker, I will not mention the word "bells" because I now realize that is a dangerous word to use at this point. I feel that the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Collenette) made a statement that reflects very severely on the privileges of members of this party or members of the official opposition when he said something to the effect, if I may paraphrase his words, that in future years people would look at *Hansard* and comment on what a terrible way the opposition behaved. That is the effect of what I said. That, I suggest, is really debate, but if that is going to be allowed then I would make one comment and that is that I suggest that in future years people will look at *Hansard* and say it is incredible how the government behaved in trying to smother opposition to a dictatorship in this country.

As I said "bells" is a dangerous word so I will not mention it, but I agree with the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) that this House starts at various times. For example, there are occasions when we have constituents here whom we may meet in our offices or they may be our guests in the dining room, as has happened to me on many occasions. They do not know exactly when this House is to meet.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, order, please. The hon. member will recognize that I interrupted the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Collenette) when he started to debate rather than expose his point of order. I think the hon. member has about reached that point now. I have to interrupt him.

The hon. member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon) on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Siddon:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Earlier today I—

**Madam Speaker:** I am sorry. I do have another point of order from the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes).

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, I just seek some clarification. I listened to your ruling and I wonder if there can be one clock within the precincts of Parliament that is the official clock? I wonder if that is set by some other standard which could be made available to us so that we might all have a common sense of time because I think on occasion, in the proceedings of Parliament, an exact sense of time is very important.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I would doubt if the hon. member reads my ruling in *Hansard* tomorrow that he would

not understand. I think it was quite clear. The hon. member for Richmond-South Delta.

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## PRIVILEGE

## MR. SIDDON—ROBERTS BANK EXPANSION—ALLEGED MISLEADING STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

**Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta):** Thank you Madam Speaker. This is my third try today and I hope that it will not be my last or I am out!

Earlier today I sought your co-operation on raising a question of privilege at the earliest possible time in relation to the proposed expansion of the Roberts Bank superport located in Delta, British Columbia which, incidentally, lies within my riding.

The proposed expansion of this port facility will have massive consequences for my riding and the surrounding area of British Columbia. The cost of the development is predicted to approach \$50 million.

The point I should like to raise this evening concerns the process that has been followed for several years where such major environmental projects are subjected to review by the so-called FEARO office or the Environmental Assessment and Review Process.

Indeed, in the case of the Roberts Bank superport project, that process was followed. A recommendation was offered to the former Liberal government in 1979, and that recommendation of a reduced scale project because of certain environmental risks, was endorsed by the government opposite.

My point concerns the government's apparent decision to broaden the terms of that project in complete contradiction to the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment and Review Process panel.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is discussing substance; he is not discussing a question of privilege. I will not hear him another minute if he does not come straight away to what his question of privilege consists of.

The written notice that he has given to me indicates to me quite clearly that he wants to discuss the subject of the dredging contract of the Roberts Bank superport in British Columbia. It is quite clear from the written statement.

The hon. member has been speaking for a while and he is discussing the substance of this particular question. Unless he comes straight away to tell me where he has a question of privilege, I will not be able to hear him.

**Mr. Siddon:** With all due respect to the Chair, I have only been given about 60 seconds. As I read earlier today, Beauchesne at page 25 sets out the role of the Speaker. It says that the Chair must be sufficiently convinced of the involved nature of a question of privilege to make a decision whether such motion should be submitted to the appropriate committee.