Time Allocation

MR. NIELSEN: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. If government members speak now, they will have an opportunity of moving that we move to orders of the day. I therefore move that the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) be now heard.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

THE ACTING SPEAKER (MR. ETHIER): Order, please. The only time to move a motion such as that which the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) has just raised is when he has been recognized and given the floor. Had he been recognized and given the floor to participate in the debate, he could—

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no!

MR. BLENKARN: Not so!

THE ACTING SPEAKER (MR. ETHIER): Again, I must say that had he been recognized on a point of order, debating again whether there were two hon. members getting up to speak at the same time, and—

MR. BLENKARN: There were several.

MR. LAWRENCE: I stood up.

MR. MAYER: I stood.

THE ACTING SPEAKER (MR. ETHIER): Order, please. The Speaker, in the usual fashion, had been alternating. I saw the hon. member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson) and I have recognized him. There could have been others seeking the floor whom I did not see; but at the time I alternated, as I do in all debates. The first hon. member to speak was from the official opposition, the second was a member from the NDP, and then we go to the other side. That has been done all the time. I did not choose between any hon. members. I recognized the hon. member for Willowdale, whom I saw rising. That now being the question, I will hear the hon. member for Yukon on his point of order.

MR. NIELSEN: I refer the Chair and his advisers to Hansard of December 11, 1975, at page 9938, where this precise question came up. After Mr. Allard had finished speaking, the then House leader for the opposition spoke. I draw Your Honour's attention to the fact that it was on a motion to concur in the report of a standing committee. Immediately after the mover had finished speaking, the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) said this:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Under the Standing Orders of this House, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave):

"That the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe be now heard."

We don't want to hear him now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) has risen on a point of order under Standing Order 29—

That is my motion, under Standing Order 29.

—at page 24 of our Standing Orders, which reads as follows: "When two or more Members rise to speak"—

That was the situation here with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) rising and the Member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) rising.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Nielsen: Here is the Acting Speaker of the day listening with great interest to what I have to say. I continued at page 12170 as follows:

Then the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Blais), along with the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave), intervened in the debate. Mr. Deputy Speaker, who was in the chair at that time, put the motion.

I suggest to you sir, that that is the obligation of the Chair now unless—I want to be fair because we all want to be fair on this side of the House—

And we still do, in this new spirit of collegiality and in the adoption of the experimental rules of reform.

—we can have the assurance of government members that their participation in the debate will be had without moving any motion—

And so on. The important part is this ruling by the then Acting Speaker. Madam Speaker, I know that you have the highest possible regard for the knowledge of the rules and practices and precedents of this place which resides in the Hon. Member who served in that very distinguished post of Acting Speaker and who is now with us today, I am sure, to give us the benefit of his advice once again, as he did on October 26, 1981. This is what he had to say at page 12170 of Hansard:

After referring to the Standing Orders, I want to correct something I said earlier. The hon. member for Yukon had the right to rise. I recognized the hon. member whom I saw rising, namely the hon. member for Willowdale.

I draw that to the Chair's attention. In that case the Chair recognized the Hon. Member for Willowdale, and went on to say:

It is very difficult for the Chair to argue. I am told other people were seeking the floor, and that could be debatable.

It certainly is not here.

When things such as this happen, the point made by the hon. member for Yukon is in order. The hon. member for Yukon has made a proposition. Nevertheless, I would have to put the motion before the House if anyone wants to be heard. There is a motion before the House that the hon. member for Vegreville be now heard.

Madam Speaker, I submit that there is no other way to invoke the provisions of Standing Order 29 except upon a point of order, but not to burden the Chair with that complication, I did not rise for that purpose. I was recognized without any preliminaries and moved the motion right off.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: I just want to summarize the situation. In my view, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, who had risen when I read the motion to the House, had the floor. He was interrupted by another Member who invoked a point of order. Immediately after that point of order was heard, I felt I had to go back to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in order again to give him the floor.

This is contested by the Hon. Member for Calgary Centre, whom I recognized supposedly on a point of order but who said he wanted to debate the motion. I feel that at that particular time the Hon. Minister of Agriculture had the floor, and therefore I wanted to recognize the Hon. Minister.

• (1640)

I now have a motion. This is contested by a Member of the House. The Hon. Member for Yukon rose quite properly under Standing Order 29 and proposed a motion, which I will now read and put to the House. It has been moved by Mr. Nielsen, seconded by Mr. Lewis:

That the Hon. Member for Calgary Centre be now heard.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?