

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)

Mr. Cousineau:—and therefore I do not see how this question can be put.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member a question. The Government, through several of its Ministers and Members, pleaded with the private sector to follow the six and five program. They have stated that the program would not be fully or wholly successful without the private sector following it. In view of this, how does the Liberal Party justify giving its President an increase of 120 per cent?

Mr. Cousineau: Mr. Speaker, we are discussing Bill C-133. I do not understand how my good friend, the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), with all his experience, could think about asking a question such as that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. Of course, the Chair does not wish in any way to enter into the debate, but since we are in a trial period under the provisional rules, perhaps I could draw again to the attention of Hon. Members the comments made by Madam Speaker, as reported on page 21873 of *Hansard* for January 17, 1983. In relation to questions and comments, Madam Speaker said:

The period is to be reserved for questions and comments about the speech preceding this period. I believe that in this connection, the Chair will probably have to take a stricter approach as far as the principle of relevance is concerned. The Chair has always been fairly flexible in this respect, but when only ten minutes are allowed for debate, it is clear that both the questions and the speech itself must be relevant in the strict sense of the word.

I offer these comments for the reflection of Hon. Members.

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor).

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that, but the Hon. Member was speaking—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I apologize to the Hon. Member for Bow River, but the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the explanation of the new rules which you just gave, can Hon. Members ask questions based on answers given to previous questions? For instance, the Parliamentary Secretary, I believe in answer to a question by the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis), stated that his support for Bill C-133 was based upon his support for the whole package, the principles of the six and five program and of restraint. I think he referred to Bills C-124, C-131, C-132 and C-133. Within the parameter of the new ruling, are subsequent questioners able to ask questions in response to an answer and dealing with the facts brought out in an earlier response of the Member?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I thank the Hon. Member for his question. As all Hon. Members including himself will appreciate, this is a trial period. It is also a trial period for

the Chair, with all the discretion given to it in the application of these provisional procedures.

Again, if I may be allowed, the question and answer period following an Hon. Member's intervention should not be an occasion to bring forward new issues or new aspects of the issue, if I may put it that way, raised in the Hon. Member's speech. The questions and answers should as much as possible, if not strictly speaking, apply to the comments made by the Hon. Member in the course of his speech. Of course, in a sense questions and answers would be part of the time allotted to the Hon. Member, so it would be up to Hon. Members to discipline themselves in this respect. The Chair does not wish at this time to say that questions will or will not be allowed. The best discipline is self-discipline, and I appeal to Hon. Members to adhere to the spirit of the report.

Again I apologize, but the Chair is now put in a position where it should normally close the question period. Points of order were raised in connection with the Hon. Member's speech, therefore, it is my understanding and my intention to take these points of order as part of the ten-minute period allowed for questions, comments and answers. Therefore I recognize the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson) to make his speech.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. With respect, I think we should have this point clarified. If we may only ask questions about what the Member said during his speech, what is the use of asking questions? We have heard what he said. Surely if we are talking about the six and five program we can apply it beyond just what the Hon. Member said. Otherwise the Member will simply repeat what he said before and there will be no purpose in the question period at all.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I appreciate the comments of the Hon. Member for Bow River. Debate on third reading is rather far-ranging. It is not as strictly limited as it would be, for example, at report stage. This is a matter for Hon. Members to decide. They are in the best position to decide how far-ranging they really want the debate to be, but I suppose questions could be allowed on the broad principle of the Bill. However it is the privilege of the Hon. Member who is receiving the question to answer or not to answer. The Chair is not the best arbiter of that.

Mr. Nickerson: May I call it one o'clock, Your Honour?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Is it agreed that we call it one o'clock?

[*Translation*]

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 12.58 p.m. the House took recess.