

should be considered with the utmost care by the Chair and the table.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think we can finish this discussion. I do not disagree with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) in the slightest, or with the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar. Indeed, it is a matter of concern, but it is raised by way of a point of order that a member of the House put forward a motion yesterday pursuant to Standing Order 43. There is no disorder or a point of order in that.

If there is any concern that the member was speaking for the government, then a question should be put to the leader of the government in the question period as to whether or not that member was speaking on government policy, or to his minister if he or she is a parliamentary secretary. This is a very direct vehicle for determining his performance.

Similarly, when the parliamentary secretary spoke today he did not make it clear if he was answering for his minister, and that was clarified by a point of order at the end of the question period. The question could be put quite directly as to whether or not the parliamentary secretary in that case, or any case for that matter, is speaking for himself or his party in the circumstances. I think that this is a perfectly legitimate proceeding.

MISS NICHOLSON—INCORRECT ATTRIBUTION BY MR. HNATYSHYN

Miss Aileen Nicholson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of clarification. I am sure that when the member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn) spoke that it was an unintentional error, but he did attribute to me, as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the remarks which were made by my colleague. Perhaps the hon. member would like to correct that, as I do not share those views.

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I know how anxious the hon. member would be to dissociate herself from the motion put by her seatmate.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

IMMIGRATION

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2) and in accordance with section 7 of the Immigration Act, 1976, I should like to table, in both official languages, a document

Point of Order—Mr. Beatty

entitled "Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration Levels".

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that those questions be allowed to stand.

* * *

● (1532)

[English]

POINTS OF ORDER

MR. BEATTY—DELAY IN ANSWERING QUESTION NO. 67

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to express my concern that the parliamentary secretary continues to allow many questions to sit on the order paper. Many members who did not have their questions answered, and who left them on the order paper for several months in the last session, reinstated the questions at the beginning of this session in exactly the same form. Therefore, any work done by the government in preparing answers over the months could be used immediately.

I have already drawn to the attention of the parliamentary secretary my question No. 67 which was first put on the order paper about eight months ago. It inquired about a week end trip on government aircraft to western Canada by the then minister of labour, on the week end of February 3, 4, and 5. Surely the parliamentary secretary cannot continue saying he has done a brilliant job in answering 90 per cent of the questions when in eight months he is incapable of eliciting the cost of this visit to the taxpayer, whether it was official business, and who the people were who accompanied the then minister of labour.

If the vehicle of questions on the order paper is to continue to be of use to members it is necessary that the parliamentary secretary take them seriously and at least make some effort to prod recalcitrant departments into giving answers to questions legitimately asked, and which deserve legitimate answers.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is giving a very poor example to his new colleagues. Had he been in the House yesterday he would have heard the answer I gave to his colleague, the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt), to whom I said that at the beginning of the session last year we had started to answer questions on the tenth day after the Speech from the Throne. Today is the ninth day. The House would not have to waste its time listening such a fallacious point as this,