

Government Orders

defeated, the Chair recognized another member. I think this is the way we should proceed.

Mr. Murphy: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not think it is a matter of whether or not the member has a right to speak any longer. I think it is a matter that the House has the right to ask him questions. It is not that he is being denied any privileges, it is that the members of the Conservative Party, members of the Liberal Party, and New Democrats who may want to ask questions of that member are being prevented.

Since the House has voted not to adjourn, I believe that we have the right to ask those questions and to challenge some of the assertions that that member made during debate.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Madam Speaker, I do not intend to show any disrespect for the Chair. I just want to make the point that, as far as the Liberals are concerned, we do not object to having the hon. member in question answer questions. We would be interested in the answers, even though we doubt if they will have any weight or substance.

If the House wishes to agree, we are not going to oppose that. Therefore, my hon. friend is wrong in saying that the Liberals are objecting to the House agreeing to allow the member to be asked questions.

Mr. Malone: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would take that the Chair was offering to this House a ruling that you, as the Chair, were making for the benefit of the House. I think what is taking place at the present time is quite inappropriate because, in effect, it is a debate on your ruling.

Those who are familiar with the rules of the House of Commons would know that it is inappropriate to have any debate or discussion of a ruling once it has once been given by the Chair. I would presume that you should conclude any statement you have with respect to the ruling that you have given, and that the House ought to respect that ruling and we go forward from there.

Mr. Angus: Madam Speaker, just a question to you of clarification. It is my understanding that in your remarks in response to the point of order raised you used terminology that could be considered as tentative and not definitive. I am asking for clarification because I do

not have *Hansard* immediately available to me to check the "blues".

Did you, in fact, hand down a ruling on the question, or did you just indicate that you were in a "quandary" that "you think" as opposed to this is the way it is going to be? I respectfully ask that you do clarify that for us.

• (1740)

Mr. Barrett: Madam Speaker, it is a fact that a motion to adjourn is always in order. If the motion is lost, the House automatically goes back to the business that preceded the motion. The member by rule loses his or her place in the debate once presenting the motion but the business of the House, after that motion is defeated, must go on as normally laid out. The next order of business is the 10 minutes following that member's speech. That is the way the rules should be.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): In answer to the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan, yes, I did start answering the hon. member by saying I was in a quandary following the hon. member for Edmonton East's request that we should proceed with a 10 minute question and comment period. Yes, I did say at that time that it was my feeling that the hon. member, by putting this motion forward in the House, was at that point expressing to the House his wish that the debate should not proceed any longer today.

At this point in time, I cannot think of a precedent under which I could explain or rationalize this ruling.

[*Translation*]

Consequently, I think the best thing to do in the circumstances is for the Chair to undertake to make inquiries and subsequently establish a precedent, because we have no precedent at this moment to which we can refer.

Consequently, I shall recognize the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes), so that we can resume debate. The hon. member has the floor.

[*English*]

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to take the floor once again—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The hon. member for Kamloops.