

Government Orders

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

The member just speaking said the field is wide open. That is contrary to what you ruled three or four minutes ago. You asked him to be relevant. He is continuing to flaunt your ruling therefore I have much pleasure in moving that the Speaker's ruling be upheld.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I know that all members of this House have a great deal of good will, and I would ask the hon. member to conclude in one minute and to stick to the subject under consideration, report stage.

[English]

Mr. Thompson: It is quite obvious the opposition members do not want government members speaking today because there has been nothing but constant interruption since I have been on my feet.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair on a point of order.

Mr. McCurdy: Evidently members on the government side have no clear idea what they are doing. They may recall that perhaps an hour ago we had a vote on time allocation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but the time for his speech has now expired.

Mr. Laporte: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member said a moment ago we were on a debate on time allocation. My understanding is that we are at report stage on one of the amendments and have already voted on time allocation. I am wondering if the Speaker could clarify to the House exactly where we are.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): To be quite clear, we are really at consideration of report stage. Now, hon. members must understand that within a speech, reference can be made to what was voted on today and things like that. So I call on all hon. members to be tolerant and show good will. Resuming debate, the hon. member for Sudbury.

[English]

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, just in case the members on the governing side of the House do

not recall, it was actually their decision to do away with any kind of two-hour debate on time allocation. I actually have the Standing Orders here. If you look at page 49, procedure in cases to allot time, you will find there is no longer any kind of debate on the subject.

There have been a lot of accusations thrown around. I just wanted to absolutely clarify this is definitely report stage on Bill C-76.

Mr. McCreath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would not want the hon. member for Sudbury to offend her colleague from Burin—St. George's so I wonder if you might ask her to speak to the motion which I believe is report stage of Bill C-76.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I again ask both sides to co-operate. I believe that the Chair has been very tolerant in allowing the widest range of expression, but I ask everyone on both sides to come back to the issue being debated. So on the substance of report stage, the hon. member for Sudbury.

• (1350)

[English]

Mrs. Marleau: Mr. Speaker, being known to co-operate I was trying to co-operate to my utmost with the members of the government in explaining to them why I was speaking to report stage of Bill C-76 rather than time allotment. I thought it very important that they understand this. We were also speaking to measures that would alter Bill C-76 with respect to student loans and the way they are being treated by this government.

When we speak of students we speak of people, of Canadians, who are very vulnerable. As is to be expected from the members on the governing side the previous speaker before me said he could not understand. I know they do not understand.

We can tell whenever the government deals with any Canadians that it has absolutely no understanding whatsoever of what it is like to be out there in the real world, to be a Canadian, to be someone trying to get an education. Rather than continuously harassing those who have such a hard time right now why does the government not introduce constructive measures such as ways of allowing students who have student loans to pay them back?