Point of Order

member's party rose on a point of privilege because she was not given a supplemental. What is the Speaker to do?

I enjoy being at the service of the House and I do try to do my best. I am not a robot and I am not a perfect person. I am just a member of Parliament like all of you. I do thank all those in House for their collaboration and understanding. I can assure them that I will continue to do my best to be a good servant of the house.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Dingwall: Madam Speaker, I just wish to reaffirm our support of the Chair and of its decisions both today and on prior occasions.

I believe it to be quite important for future deliberations that the suggestion by my hon. friend opposite be given serious consideration. The hon. member stated that he was third on a list that was given to the Speaker. The Speaker did not get to him because the second person on the list did not get reached. There is still a way for hon. members who do have questions to be able to put them. If there was a disposition in the House, unanimous consent could extend the length of Question Period in order to accommodate that particular member.

I want to concur with the comments of the government House leader that the substantive aspects of Question Period ought to be reviewed in some form. We all know that the management committee has a subcommittee that is looking at some of those aspects. However I do not want it to be implied in any way, Madam Speaker, through you or from members opposite that the fundamentals and traditions of Question Period would be markedly changed in any way by those discussions that would be taking place in the subcommittee.

In conclusion I would say that I understand the difficulties the Chair has in recognizing members that wish to be recognized in Question Period. That is why we have tried to facilitate the Chair in providing a list from this side. I think it is only reasonable when you have 300 members of Parliament who are in the House at any given point in time that wish to be recognized for any particular thing. It is somewhat new to find out that the government now has a list that it submits on a regular basis. We were under the clear belief and understanding that Question Period was probably one of the most primary tools available to opposition parties and opposi-

tion members in order to make the government accountable for its particular actions.

● (1220)

Finally, Madam Speaker, I say to you and to members of the House that perhaps the hon. members opposite ought to be cognizant of the fact that there are numerous times—

An hon. member: More and more.

Mr. Dingwall: —notwithstanding that—

An hon. member: Let us reply.

Mr. Dingwall: Madam Speaker, I am trying to make a point here which I believe is quite important. The hon. member—

An hon. member: It is not really the point that comes out of your mouth.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Please. The hon. House leader.

Mr. Dingwall: Madam Speaker, I will conclude with this. Hon. members opposite, and I refer to one who is a very able, very sincere colleague in this House, Guy Saint–Julien, has been up over 500 times in Question Period and on Standing Order 31 since 1988. So I do not accept the—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I thank the hon. Liberal House leader for his help. I know that I will be able to count on his support.

I will listen the last time to the hon. member for Carleton—Charlotte, who has been seeking the floor.

Mr. Thompson: Madam Speaker, I take seriously what you mentioned in terms of doing your best. We all attempt to do your best in this House. That is probably the frustration that I and many others experience from time to time, and you as well, that we do attempt to do our best.

I have a suggestion, Madam Speaker, for what it is worth. You alluded to some opposition members being concerned because they were not allowed a supplementary. I believe that the supplementary question is where the abuse within the system takes place. According to Beauchesne, there should not be a prelude to a supple-