

Point of Order—Mr. Pinard

of the Privy Council suggests we are in. In order to establish the view, the national collective view, call an election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pinard: We will certainly call an election. However, I do not know when. Certainly, we have always respected the Constitution of this country. We intend to keep on doing that. I do not want the Hon. Member for Yukon to turn this into—

Mr. Huntington: Hang onto your jobs while you can.

Mr. Pinard: —a joke. Our request is serious. There are over a million unemployed in this country who are watching the Tories and the NDP—

Mr. Nielsen: Who caused the unemployment?

Mr. Pinard: —wasting the time of the House of Commons.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Hon. Member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer) has the enormous advantage of being in my immediate vicinity so that I tend to recognize him very often. I would ask him, in return for his recognition, since he is rising on a point of order, that he apply himself to the Standing Orders.

Mr. Mayer: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the request of the Government House Leader that the number of Hon. Members who are in the House be recorded, I suggest there is a way out of that dilemma. If the Speaker would accept a motion of non-confidence we could vote on it and everyone would know who was in the House at this particular time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, it is a point of order. I understand the difficulty which the Chair finds itself in with some Hon. Members being closer to the Chair than others. However, the President of the Privy Council rose to his feet, apparently not on a point of order, and was still recognized and allowed to set forth an option or a request for unanimous consent. At the time the President of the Privy Council rose, not on a point of order, my colleague, the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River, was still being recognized by the Chair, was still on his feet. He was still in the process of presenting petitions. If the President of the Privy Council did not rise on a point of order, how then, I must ask, did he ever gain the floor? If he did not gain the floor, then how could we have points of orders interjecting his participation in the proceedings of the House this afternoon? I am left in a quandary. I tried to raise this point at the earliest possible moment. I find it passing strange to realize how we got into the situation we are now in. If anyone, Mr. Speaker, is wasting the time of the House on matters which are certainly frivolous, not germane and totally out of order, it is the President of the Privy Council, and he ought to know better.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member makes a very serious point of order. He is wondering how I could be

recognized while one of his colleagues had finished reading a petition and was signing it. It is very simple. Every Hon. Member has the right to rise in this House and present petitions. We have seen that for the last two days. When I rose and you recognized me, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River had finished presenting his petition and was in the process, perhaps of considering raising another one. Therefore, I believe I was very much in order. I would not like a precedent to be established that one could not rise, other than on a point of order, in between two petitions. I believe it is within the discretion of the Chair to recognize any Member in his place during the presentation of petitions or at any other time. I believe the Speaker recognized me in accordance with the Standing Orders.

That is, perhaps, a very serious answer to a very serious point of order. When my colleague says that he thinks I have been wasting the time of the House, I do not feel he can be serious. I can excuse him if perhaps he was using some kind of dry humour. Certainly, he will realize that for the last two days his Party and the Conservative Party have been preventing Parliament from working, and have been preventing Government from creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in the country.

Mr. Kristiansen: Since Madam Speaker earlier today—

Mr. Pinard: It is Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Kristiansen: —made a ruling. I am not sure if it was Mr. Speaker or Madam Speaker at that time.

An Hon. Member: Madam Speaker made the ruling.

Mr. Kristiansen: Madam Speaker made the ruling. As I thought, my recollection was correct. She made the ruling that Hon. Members presenting petitions would have to do so continuously and that if they gave up the floor they could no longer continue presenting what petitions they had, which are certainly considered to be rather urgent by those Canadians who have forwarded them to their Member of Parliament, or other Members of Parliament, for presentation. If the President of the Privy Council is suggesting that someone can intervene other than on a point of order while someone continues to have the floor and is presenting those petitions, in the only way Madam Speaker ruled today that they could, then the President of the Privy Council is obviously out on cloud nine and out to lunch, Mr. Speaker.

I suggest we go back to the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River. He still has the floor in my view and, quite frankly, because of that I do not know what I or any other Hon. Member is doing participating in debate on a point of order at this time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): There are three minutes remaining to the House and it seems to me to be open to Hon. Members as to which way they wish to proceed. At the request of Hon. Members, the Chair will either, first, rule on the points of order; second, recognize the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River to continue with his petitions, as I gather