

*Routine Proceedings***SUPPLY**

REDESIGNATION OF MOTION

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): As indicated previously, Mr. Speaker, my intention at this point in time is to move to restore the business of supply by way of a motion. I move:

That a continuing Order for the Day for the consideration of business of Supply in the name of the President of the Treasury Board be redesignated.

I heard your admonition, Mr. Speaker, in terms of seeking time to judge on the question of privilege, as I understood it when it was first raised. If it were a point of order, it should not have been heard at the time it was heard. Normally, a point of order about this thing should only be heard when the position is made. It was raised as a question of privilege prior to the commencement of Routine Proceedings and I do not know how the orderliness of this comes to bear on a question of privilege that was raised.

Mr. Riis: Are you on a point of order?

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, having gone through almost an hour and a half in terms of a question of privilege and what privileges were hurt by this, in view of your admonition I certainly would delay for a day, acknowledging though, that on this basis, committees of the House will not be able to sit, whereas they could, in considering estimates. People who have made plans and tried to be accommodating will have those plans disrupted—

Mr. Milliken: Because of your bungling.

Mr. Andre: —and there may be an unnecessary waste of taxpayer's funds. But if in fact that is desirable, I would await your judgment.

Mr. Milliken: You should have thought of that Friday afternoon when you pulled your troops.

Mr. Andre: There is the hon. member for Kingston and The Islands again saying that after extended hours into the evening, when he is back in Kingston everybody else should be here.

Mr. Speaker: We have heard argument and there was perhaps some re-argument there. The hon. minister is letting his motion stand. I have indicated to hon. members that there were complicated and novel arguments put forward. I think I will be able to be here certainly by the opening of House business tomorrow to make a

ruling and I think that is where the matter should remain.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, if I may, just one other matter very quickly. I do not want to cloud this particular point.

I would not like to see remain as a precedent the situation where a point of order could be as anticipatory as this one, if in fact it was a point of order. The House leader of the Liberal party rose on a question of privilege as I heard him. A question of privilege must be raised at a particular time.

Can you, under a question of privilege, argue a point of order and thereby anticipate something that might happen later on, which seems to have happened here. They seem to have argued a point of order. We are waiting for a judgment. That has precluded me from commencing that which I could have commenced if in fact the motion might be put and it's having dealt with might have been challenged on a point of order.

Now we have this situation. We are into a season where, until we get our Easter break, we are likely to see more of this. I would like to make the point that I will object in future if this process is to be viewed as some sort of precedent for again wasting the time of the House.

Mr. Gauthier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. You have been well known to give equal time to the opposition. Stick around, Mr. Minister, I have a few things to tell you.

Mr. Andre: I listened for 45 minutes. I am late for a bunch of appointments.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to re-argue the point.

Mr. Gauthier: I do not want to re-argue the point, but I want to make a couple of points about those that have been made by the government House leader, before he walked out of here, which I do not think should stand unchallenged.

First of all, I did raise a question of privilege in this House. The privilege of the members of the House in debate, in my view, and I argued that point maybe not as eloquently as I should have, but I did my best to make the point that our privileges had indeed been infringed in debate on Friday when the government, by its own wilful and negligent incompetence, did something to prevent members of this House who had not spoken in debate, who signed the book but wanted to speak in debate. It