

Non-confidence in Deputy Speaker

The majority of hon. members or at least many of them have admitted that a mistake or an irregularity was committed. Consequently, we cannot understand why experts on procedure have asked us to withdraw our non-confidence motion. Since mistakes have been made, why should we be blind to them, why should we relinquish our responsibilities and refuse to determine who is responsible for those mistakes and irregularities?

Mr. Speaker, we do not accept to ignore the breaches of the rules which took place last Friday, and that is why we maintain our resolution.

We would have been willing to ask the committee on procedure to consider what happened Friday evening, but since a vote is desired, we are ready to vote on the motion.

Moreover, I wish to say—

[Text]

Mr. Knowles: Will the hon. member permit one more question, and this is my last? Does he not realize that the reason some of us would like the hon. member to consider withdrawing his motion is that we do not feel the Deputy Speaker should have votes cast against him for a mistake which was a mistake of the whole house? Does he not feel that it is, therefore, a reasonable request?

Mr. Caouette: It was not our mistake.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I want to be very specific on this subject. There are some who wish to call this a mistake. Personally, I do not call it a mistake.

We had in this chamber people as conversant with the procedure and the rules of the house as the hon. members for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill), as well as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson). But, when a mistake succeeds in slipping through all these competent men on procedure, I say there was blinking of the facts somewhere, and that is why I will not call it a mistake. On the contrary, it is indeed a flagrant transgression of the rules that was committed on that evening, and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre knows it full well. In fact, as the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) pointed out, we witnessed on that evening a general agreement to be blind to the infringement of the standing orders of this house.

Mr. Chretien: Blah, blah, blah.

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I hear the argument of the hon. member for St. Maurice-Lafleche (Mr. Chretien) saying blah,

[Mr. Gregoire.]

blah, blah. It is the most intelligent argument put forward by some members opposite who keep barking all the time.

If you want us to withdraw our motion, give us sound arguments.

Mr. Speaker, I will go further and explain the reason why we are asking for a vote. I am quite astonished to find that English speaking Canadians, and I commend them for it, who are always great upholders of procedure and the standing orders have today become sentimentalists, have, in fact, become French Canadians, and do not take the standing orders too seriously.

Mr. Speaker, we are—

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think all hon. members will appreciate that the Chair has been extremely lenient in allowing the hon. member to sum up and conclude his argument. We are now discussing the motion, and if the house is ready I am prepared to put the question.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I only need a minute to complete my remarks. We conclude that there were irregularities. We think that, following our interventions that evening—we made seven or eight—hon. members and the Deputy Speaker persisted in their blindness. We feel that our conscience does not permit us to call this a simple error, for it is an obvious violation of the standing orders. That is why we ask for a vote on this motion.

[Text]

The house divided on the motion (Mr. Gregoire), which was negated on the following division:

NAYS

Messrs:

Aiken	Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands)
Alkenbrack	Cantelon
Armstrong	Cantin
Asselin (Richmond-Wolfe)	Cardiff
Badanai	Cardin
Balcer	Caron
Baldwin	Carter
Barnett	Casselman, Mrs.
Basford	Chapdelaine
Batten	Chatterton
Bechard	Chretien
Beer	Churchill
Bell	Clancy
Benidickson	Coates
Benson	Cooper
Berger	Cowan
Bigg	Crossman
Blouin	Cyr
Boulanger	Davis
Brown	Deachman
Byrne	Deschatelets
Cadieu (Meadow Lake)	Diefenbaker
Cadieux (Terrebonne)	Dinsdale
Cameron (High Park)	Doucett