

Business of the House

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the hon. member would indicate what the point of order is so that the Chair might be given an opportunity to rule thereon.

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, there is so much noise coming from the other side that I can hardly hear myself.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Dinsdale: In my 20 years in this House of Commons there has never been a time when it has been so difficult to get messages of concern through to the ministry. This is partly because of the fact private members have lost their privileges and also because of the catcalls from the trained seals on the government benches.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a speech. I suggest he is not making a point of order. He has the floor and I would like him to indicate the point of order on which he seeks a ruling from the Chair.

Mr. Dinsdale: I thought all members in this chamber were equal. I am wondering, in view of the fact that I have to be away on an important public engagement tomorrow in Manitoba, whether I could at least pose my question and if the government would deign even to take it into consideration and reply at a later date.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now asking that the Chair seek the unanimous consent of the House to return to the question period so that he may ask his question or that the House give unanimous consent to the hon. member to ask a question.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has heard the negative response which the Chair has received. I regret very much that the hon. member has been placed in the position where he was not able to ask his question. As he realizes, it is difficult for the Chair to try to give every member an opportunity. I did not realize the hon. member was unable to ask a question yesterday. My impression was otherwise, but if I am mistaken I apologize to the hon. member.

Mr. Dinsdale: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Your Honour's difficulty. It is impossible for anyone to cope with the growing arrogance of this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege concerning *Hansard* and affecting the privileges of all hon. members. Yesterday I asked the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) a question which is recorded at page 8067 of *Hansard*. He answered in English. I listened to his answer very carefully. In the last line but one of the answer there appears these words: "There is almost no unemployment there." The minister did not say any such thing. He has smuggled in the word "almost".

• (3:10 p.m.)

Again, on September 21 I asked a question of the parliamentary secretary to the same minister. The question and

[Mr. Hees.]

answer are recorded at page 8036 of *Hansard*. A whole phrase has been deleted from *Hansard*. He said in his reply: "As the hon. member knows, there have been consultations going on for two years." That whole phrase has been deleted.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Nielsen: I believe this is a matter coming under Your Honour's jurisdiction and I suggest it be re-emphasized that the privilege of hon. members in altering *Hansard* does not extend to altering the sense of the language used, and certainly does not extend to the deletion of a whole phrase or the smuggling in of extra words.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has re-emphasized the position on behalf of the Chair. He has, of course, stated the situation correctly and I believe it should be known to all hon. members. Orders of the day. Order, please. I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition. We have a further point of order to consider before we call on him.

Mr. Marshall: My point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that since September 7, when the House resumed, I have been recognized once during the question period. I simply wish to announce that I represent 100,000 people and I am back in the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION—
FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW PROVISIONS OF
TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition) moved:

That this House, conscious that the Government is bound by the laws of this Parliament as are the citizens of this country, condemns the Government for its deliberate flouting of the provisions of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act and for the deliberate suppression of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act in the publication of and bringing into force of the Revised Statutes of Canada 1970.

He said: Mr. Speaker, there are times in political life when a particular issue, no matter how important it may be in itself, suddenly takes on an added dimension and puts a spotlight, indeed, a pitiless spotlight, on the way of operation, on the way of thinking, on the whole philosophy of life of a particular government. There are times when a government exposes itself to the gaze of the people who elected it to office. There are times when it shows its real face, a face which it has succeeded in keeping hidden over a considerable period of time behind one of several masks it has at its disposal. But eventually the mask is torn off and eventually the reality is bared. In such a case, the government does not get charged with indecent exposure. If it does not die of shame, it will be buried anyway by the people who no longer recognize themselves in the reflection the government offers them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!