

## Elections

like to refresh my memory as to the facts. I gave no specific instruction to that effect.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** A supplementary question. Whether they were specific or not specific did the minister advise the Regional Director of Health Services in Edmonton to inform Dr. Connolly that unless he withdrew the charge he would be dismissed?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde** No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, did he know that such directions had been given on his behalf?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde** No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I would think he would be able to recall this case.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare has given three very direct answers to the questions asked by the right hon. member. If he has another question I will be prepared to permit it.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, if you have been listening you will have noticed the desire of government members to howl down anyone from this side.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Shame!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Castro never had more obedient supporters.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, will the minister refresh his memory, and will he table the correspondence in connection with this charge as well as the refusal of the official in the Yukon to carry out instructions, so the action went ahead and instead of the fine being \$5,000 the town of Whitehorse pleaded guilty and the fine was \$100?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde** Mr. Speaker, I told the hon. member that I would look into the facts; I shall be pleased to examine the correspondence that may exist on that subject.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Northumberland-Durham on a point of order.

**Mr. Lawrence:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am well aware, sir, as I know you are, that this House has appointed you as the servant of the House, and not its master, with very wide discretionary powers with regard to deciding what is in order and what is not in order in the question period. May I merely say to you, sir, that we are all aware that this discretionary power in your hands has to be exercised with fairness and equality toward all members.

● (1500)

May I put my point of order this way. All members, including the Prime Minister, ministers and opposition members, participate equally in the rights, duties, responsibilities and privileges accorded to hon. members. This afternoon the Prime Minister on four occasions referred to his interpretation of a single judge's word. When I stood up and by way of preamble to a short, simple question to the chief law officer of the Crown attempted to put on record the actual words of the judge, Your Honour cut me off at the knees.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not propose to enter into a dialogue on this matter. I will simply say this as I was compelled to make a decision in respect of the hon. member's question. After being given the floor, the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham put what I consider a more than adequate preamble to his question. I intervened, and I always intervene reluctantly, to ask him to put the question forthwith. I did this at the very moment he was about to quote something. In other words, I was saying directly that I thought he had put a long enough preamble and ought to put his question. The hon. member began asking the question and then began to read the quotation I had asked him directly not to read. In the circumstances, I do not see what other choice the Chair had.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. On October 14, 1975, Your Honour informed the House that on September 3 you had issued your warrant for a by-election in the constituency of St. John's West. As the statutory six months have expired, I wonder if Your Honour can say why the date for that by-election has not been announced.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, if I may anticipate the answer even though I do not believe you have called for ministerial statements on motions, I have something before me which may satisfy the hon. member.

**An hon. Member:** Too late.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Why am I too late?

**An hon. Member:** Time has expired.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Prime Minister, I presume, is indicating his intention, on tabling of documents, to perhaps table a document which may be of some interest in this regard.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## ELECTIONS

TABLING OF ORDER IN COUNCIL COVERING BY-ELECTION IN ST. JOHN'S WEST

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 41(2) I am tabling