

*Points of Order*

order to raise a point of order with respect to something else altogether.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) said in his intervention he hoped there was another way we could hear the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark). I hope so, too, because I would like to accommodate him, if it is at all possible according to our rule. However, there is not another way. I have to insist that what I said awhile ago, confirmed now by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), is the only way I can proceed.

I would remind the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton that points of order cannot be raised indiscriminately. For example, tonight we could not raise a point of order on a borrowing bill; it is not before the House and is not relevant to the present proceedings of the House. He quoted Citation 233, but it is not relevant to this particular situation. We are not at the present time conducting legislative business. We might come to it but we are not there at the present time, nor are we in debate. Therefore, I do have to rule that I cannot hear points of order unless they relate to routine proceedings. For example, if there is a point of order on questions on the Order Paper, which I have just called, I can entertain that. I have just called questions on the Order Paper and I will hear the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Collette) on that matter, and then we will proceed from there.

**Some hon. Members:** Point of order.

**Mr. Collette:** Madam Speaker, I had read out the numbers, and I did ask that if No. 681 could be made an order for return, the return would be tabled immediately. It was given to one of the ushers but I did not get your consent to do that. Following that I would ask that all remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**An hon. Member:** Question of privilege.

**Madam Speaker:** The questions have been—

**Some hon. Members:** Point of order.

**Madam Speaker:** The questions have been—

**An hon. Member:** A question of privilege takes precedence over any order.

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I will hear that at the proper time when I finish dealing with the questions on the Order Paper. Members know that usually I listen to the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council on questions on the Order Paper, that is the normal and usual procedure. I will deal with that and then I can hear points of order if there are any. For the time being the parliamentary secretary has the floor.

**An hon. Member:** Not on a question of privilege.

**Madam Speaker:** I will terminate with that procedure. The questions as enumerated by the hon. parliamentary secretary have been answered. Is it the pleasure—

**An hon. Member:** Point of order.

**Madam Speaker:** I heard the hon. member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) say he had a question relating to the questions on the Order Paper and I will give him the floor.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Madam Speaker, my question No. 1,418, asked on July 9, has not been answered. It is a simple question. I asked the government what money they loaned to Tanzania, whether the loans had been extended, what was the interest rate and was there any default? It is a simple matter and the government has not answered. My point of order is simply this, Madam Speaker: Why has that not been answered? Is it embarrassing to the government? Have they given away the taxpayers' money? That is important in other debates before this House and we want to know.

**Mr. Collette:** Madam Speaker, since it appears there may be a number of interventions on points of order concerning questions on the Order Paper I will sit down and hear them all and deal with the answers seriatim, if that is acceptable. If you would like me to jump up and down after every member and say: I will do my best to get the answer, I am quite prepared to do that, I need the exercise.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member is not the only one jumping up and down tonight. I would urge him to answer the question as it was asked by the hon. member for Mississauga South. If there are others I guess he can rise and answer them too.

**Mr. Collette:** Madam Speaker, I shall do my best to give that answer.

**Mr. Beatty:** Madam Speaker, I would like to bring some questions on the Order Paper to the attention of the parliamentary secretary. On December 9 I put a question on the Order Paper, No. 1,852. It is a simple two-part question dealing with the chairman of the Canadian Film Development Corporation. I asked whether or not he was included in the corporation's conflict of interest guidelines. I also asked whether he maintained an interest in a private law practice and, if so, with which firms and in what capacity, and whether or not the firm conducts business on behalf of clients in the film industry.

This is a very simple question, Madam Speaker, one that was put on the Order Paper three and a half months ago as a result of representations made to me by a private citizen concerned about this particular issue. I would have thought it possible for the parliamentary secretary, if he was concerned about doing his job and ensuring that Members of Parliament got swift answers to questions on the Order Paper, to have found it possible in three and a half months to get an answer to a question this simple.

I would also like to refer to two other questions, Madam Speaker, which have sat on the Order Paper now for two and a