

I think I have to come to some solution. Either, on the first part, the conclusion that I would come to is that, having asked the House whether it is ready for the question, I should then proceed without the interruption of points of order; or, on the other hand, some way, through putting the question to the House, I should observe any hon. member who wishes to rise and put a point of order, and that that point of order might somehow or other affect the proceeding of putting the question. I have tried to have a little advice while I have been listening to the points of order, and I do not feel comfortable with the situation. Therefore, I will proceed as I think best, and I will have to live with the result.

It is my feeling that once the House is asked whether or not it is ready for the question, and the question has begun to be read, and at that point the question is put to the House or is in the process of being put to the House, hon. members have a perfectly legitimate and perfectly parliamentary and free opportunity to consider whether or not they accept the question. I think that gives those hon. members who may object to the question being put, a reasonable opportunity to declare that they do not wish the question to be put at this point. Therefore, I think, given the rights of all hon. members who may want to object to the question being put or who may want to vote against the question, it seems to me that we ought to continue in a procedural fashion; and those hon. members who are discontented can rise in their places in due course and express themselves.

I think I have to indicate—I thought I had just done so—that if I am in the process of putting the question to the House, I will not recognize a point of order. The hon. member has no end of opportunities, within seconds, to express his opinion. I do not see that it disadvantages him in any way to have the question put.

Mr. Taylor: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. Once again, this hon. member was on his feet, and if he is not recognized, it is nothing more than a dirty trick. He was on his feet before Your Honour started reading—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I would ask the hon. member for Bow River to take his seat—

Mr. Taylor: I am in my seat.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):—and only under such circumstances as he is recognized by the Chair, to stand. If there are hon. members who want to make a point on this—my view is that there is no question. Once I have asked whether or not the House is ready for the question and have begun to read the question, it seems to me that we ought to proceed.

However, I will listen for two or three minutes, or a few minutes, to perhaps two or three hon. members—and I would ask that hon. members be very brief—and then I will make a ruling on the decision, because I understand there are some hon. members who feel strongly about the point. I have heard the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona, and I will now hear the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath).

Summer Recess

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I was not here, but it is my understanding—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. McGrath: We know what is going on here tonight; but it is my understanding that the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Kilgour), at the moment Your Honour put the question, tried to get the floor. The hon. member nods his agreement. If that is the case, then I submit with great respect that Your Honour must cease and desist putting the question until you hear the hon. member. That is the point of order I wish to raise, because the hon. member tried to get the floor at the moment Your Honour put the question.

● (2010)

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, when you started the question—

An hon. Member: You were not here.

Mr. Taylor: Quiet down a minute. What are you trying to do? Are you trying to run this country with a steam shovel or something? Look at the rules.

The hon. member was on his feet asking for the right to speak before the motion was put.

An hon. Member: That is not true.

Mr. Taylor: And the hon. member has the right to speak even if the motion has been partly read. If a member stands up and expresses the wish to speak, he has that right. Hon. members should look at the rules.

I submit that the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona has the right to speak. He was on his feet. The Chair was not looking his way, but the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona was on his feet, and hon. members on the other side know it.

Mr. Collette: Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite clear. Beauschene's fifth edition, Citation 217, reads:

When the debate on a question is closed, and the House is ready to decide thereon, the Speaker says: "Is the House ready for the question?"

Which is exactly what you did, Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago. The citation continues:

If it is evident that no member claims the right of speaking, the Speaker proceeds to put the question by reading the main motion, and then the amendment or amendments in their proper order. He then takes the sense of the members of the last of these by saying: "Those who are in favour of the motion—"

An hon. Member: You have answered your question.

Mr. Collette: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that you are now in the middle of putting a question and any point of order, even the one on which I am rising, is entirely out of order. You have admitted by your own ruling a few moments ago, Sir, that you must put the question now.