

*Point of Order*

the question of television coverage, and once the vote is called, that is end of the coverage of the Chamber. All we have is the ticking clock. Perhaps the solution might be to have television coverage of the Chamber. Hon. Members could see Whips come in. However, that is not for me to say.

I will look at the question of the clock. I have some indication that members other than those of the party of the hon. member for Skeena may have also found themselves in some difficulty today. But that is the sole issue and I want it clearly understood. I will see if something can be done to convenience members, but I point out the reason the clock is there is a matter of convenience only.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I rise just so that the House is not inadvertently misled by some of the gratuitous remarks made by the opposition House Leader. I was here. I do not believe he was here for the vote. I voted and it was not to stop an hon. member from speaking. I would not vote that way. It was to hear our finance critic, the member for Yorkton—Melville.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** I would invite hon. members to consider what has been said in what started off as a point of order, and if they are still convinced after having looked at *Hansard* that the matter has to be brought to me further, I will of course hear them. But I am not at this point entertaining argument on why the vote was called or what the purpose of it was.

I will, of course, hear the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier. I know he will take into account what I have just said.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, you have convinced me. I rest my case and I will refer to *Hansard*.

However, since you alluded to the fact that the Whips may be the ones to whom we should be looking to decide when a vote will take place, short of doing a dance with my colleague from the government side, I am ready to look at that whole problem, especially in this regard.

It has been a tradition of this House that when the Whips walk into the House, members give way and clear the aisles. That has not been our experience in this

Parliament and I would like to ask members of this House, in an effort to be co-operative and to show some respect for the Whips coming in for the vote, that maybe they clear the aisles so that the Whip and I do not have to wind down the aisle through all kinds of opposition.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca may want to assist the Speaker.

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** Mr. Speaker, not on the merits of the particular case, but the mechanics of the case, there is another question I would ask the Chair to consider, namely to notify members of committees who also must look to that clock for guidance. Members in committee are also placed in the invidious situation of not knowing that that time frame will not be met. There may be an occasion where there are far more serious events and members of committee will miss that opportunity to vote.

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I am prompted by my good friend from Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca to suggest to him and his colleagues that since the New Democratic Party has indeed entered the age of technology and discovered the benefits of hidden microphones, perhaps the NDP Whip could get himself a walkie-talkie to keep the boys and girls of the NDP informed so that they can get here to the House on time for votes.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** I suppose gallantry imposes upon me the obligation to let our hon. friend from Nickel Belt at least have his say.

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I was here when the motion was put. I heard the Whip from the government side say that 30 minutes and 15 minutes on the television screen monitor is really a guide and there is no minimum time.

In fact, I was here. That bell rang for about two minutes, so even if members had to come from the Confederation Building by bus—I am corrected, the bell rang for three minutes—it is possible they could have missed the vote.

That was a recorded vote, and members do have a responsibility to be here. We cannot be held responsible if the Whip from the Liberals and the Whip from the Conservatives cooked up this deal to get this thing put