

Government Organization Act, 1983

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Hon. Member referring to the Hon. Member for Kootenay West or the Hon. Member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke?

Mr. Domm: Perhaps I made an error. It is Kootenay East-Revelstoke, is that not right?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No.

Mr. Domm: I apologize to the Hon. Member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke (Mr. Parker). I am referring to the dress of the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen). This question has arisen in the House of Commons and appeared in *Hansard* a long time ago. The Speaker at the time said that he would be sorry to see Canada resort to making our policies in short sleeves, referring to the business of the House of Commons. I realize there is a fine distinction between dress and undress—

Miss Jewett: I protest.

Mr. Domm: —but I think we would be treading on rather thin ice if we adopted a policy in the House of Commons which allowed Hon. Members of Parliament to attend in short sleeves while debating issues in the House.

Mr. Epp: What about Flora?

Mr. Domm: Mr. Speaker, I am referring to a male Member. I realize there is a distinction between men and women in the House. I would like to refer to citation 244 of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition which reads:

The Standing Orders of the House are virtually silent on the subject of Members' dress. S.O. 28 requires that a Member who wishes to speak must rise in his place uncovered. While the wearing of hats in the Chamber has a respectable historical tradition, Speakers in recent years have frowned on unorthodox headgear. Beyond this, Speakers have enforced conservative, contemporary standards in the House.

I suggest with all due respect that a short-sleeved safari shirt or jacket over top of another shirt is hardly considered to be "conservative, contemporary standards" in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Peterborough raises a matter which is not easily resolved by the Chair. The Chair prefers, if possible, to ask Hon. Members to use their own good judgment, according to their own conscience, on contemporary standards of good taste in the House. I note the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen) came into the Chamber in the attire described—and the Chair would not attempt to be more precise—but I also note that the Hon. Member subsequently entered the House with a more conventional jacket. I have no further observation to make.

Mr. Lambert: They are still short sleeves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I feel the point concerning dress has been made. In the interests of the debate and in the interests of Hon. Members, the Chair would like to put an end to the discussion by simply stating that the Chair hopes Hon. Members will at all times observe contemporary standards of good taste in their dress.

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, I certainly accept your comments in the spirit in which I believe you made them. I would like to correct the record by stating that I happen to be dressed in exactly the same way as I was when I entered the Chamber earlier. Mr. Speaker may not have perceived that; anyone can make a mistake. As to the matter of sexual equality, I would not deign to show my knees in the House, but I certainly think my elbows are as attractive as those of the other gender. I do not see a problem. Apart from that, it is well past the time that we in the House rolled up our sleeves and did some work.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Hon. Member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson) regarding the tier system about which he talked and how it relates to regional economic development. I am quite concerned that different tiers can occur within different areas of a Province, but I think there is some inconsistency in terms of establishing on what tier a certain area is.

● (1220)

The area that I represent, The Battlefords-Meadow Lake, is on a lower tier of that four-tier level. If the tiers are based on need and the highest tiers have the highest needs, they therefore get the first preference on funds, grants and economic development. As the Hon. Member is the "buddy" Liberal Member for The Battleford-Meadow Lake, he knows that unemployment and economic development is in a very sad state in the northern part of Saskatchewan, especially from Meadow Lake north. In fact, some communities there have in excess of 90 per cent unemployment.

I want to ask whether there is some way of reassessing the tiers and whether they can be re-evaluated. A certain area may have inadvertently been put on a lower tier than it should be. Can that be reviewed and reassessed to a higher tier level?

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to receive the representations of the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake (Mr. Anguish). Having a very specific and close interest in his riding and the good people of that riding, I will certainly undertake to work in a constructive way to ensure that their needs within the over-all priorities are respected.

I look forward to the opportunity of co-operating with him to ensure that the tier system and the approach we are taking of implementing our programs will be effective. I very much welcome his question and his representation on increased collaboration and co-operation in this area.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister. As the Parliamentary Secretary knows, there were other elements of his speech which I found interesting and, of course, some which I found controversial. I will not get into the elimination of DREE, which is really the heart of the Bill before us in terms of reorganization. There are many aspects to it, such as the external affairs merging with the trade aspect. In effect, there is the elimination of DREE. The real question that concerns many people in Atlantic Canada is how attention will be