

*Point of Order—Mr. Deans***PRIVILEGE**

## PROCEDURE DURING ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston):** I have a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for York South-Weston (Mr. Nunziata) is seeking a question of privilege arising out of Question Period?

**Mr. Nunziata:** That is correct, Mr. Speaker. We, as Parliamentarians, are entitled to ask the Government of the day, including the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who heads that Government, questions which are relevant to the governing of this country. The Prime Minister gave an undertaking that he would be here today to answer questions arising out of the conduct of his Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen).

I would submit to you, Your Honour, that my privileges as a Member of Parliament have been affected because I have not been able to put questions to the Government relating to the conduct of the Deputy Prime Minister who holds the second highest position in this Government. I would ask that you, Mr. Speaker, refer the whole matter of the conduct of the Deputy Prime Minister relating to his use of conversations arising out of a Liberal caucus meeting, or several Liberal caucus meetings, some time ago, to the Elections and Privileges Committee so that we will have an opportunity to ask proper and appropriate questions which go to the very root and core of this Parliament.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member quite properly makes the point that he has the right in Question Period to ask questions of the Government, as do all Hon. Members of the Opposition. That, I take it, is exactly what we went through.

The Hon. Member may not know that the Government, at least in the system as we have it, is a collegial system of cabinet responsibility. In fact the Hon. Member is absolutely correct, that questions are put to the Government to be answered by the Government. That is what we have done.

I cannot see that there is a question of privilege involved in what the Hon. Member is saying. I have a feeling that what he has done is that he has mixed two possible questions of privilege, but I took it he was rising on the question of the availability of the Government to answer questions as his question of privilege, since that is what he began with. And since we have had questions put to the Government, and since the Government was here to answer questions, I do not see that there is a question of privilege.

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**POINT OF ORDER**

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) on another point?

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse):

That we proceed to Orders of the Day.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder if the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain would mind letting me clarify for myself whether that motion is in order. In some cases such a motion is in order but I am not entirely clear whether it is in order on a point of order.

**Mr. Deans:** I did not rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry, then I should not have recognized you.

**Mr. Deans:** You recognized me.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think that if the Hon. Member checks the "blues" he will find I recognized him on a point of order, assuming that is what he was rising on.

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, if I may—

**Mr. Speaker:** May I express my dilemma to the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain?

**Mr. Deans:** You do your checking. Okay.

**Mr. Speaker:** Because I did recognize the Hon. Member on a point of order. If that is not what he was seeking, then I do not know on what basis I could have recognized him otherwise. May I check with the Clerk, please?

● (1130)

With respect, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain will know that I had presented the Clerk of Petitions' Report and had received a notice of a question of privilege. I have heard it.

There is nothing before the House until I indicate that we are at the Presenting of Reports stage. Therefore I recognized the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain on a point of order because I assumed that was why he was rising. I cannot accept his motion under a point of order. There must be a substantive matter of something before the House for him to be recognized on other than a point of order. The Hon. Member is now rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** You are rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Deans:** Since the Speaker was receiving petitions, as he says—I am only going by what I heard—then stopped to hear a question of privilege, it is not unreasonable to assume that what was before the House was temporarily stopped in order that a question of privilege could be heard. My rising was then on the matter which was before the House prior to the question of privilege being raised.

The question of privilege does not stop the proceedings, but interferes with the proceedings. In actual fact we are still dealing with the matter that was before the House because