

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Riis moved that bill be read the first time and be printed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion which was agreed to on the following division:

(Division No. 173)

YEAS

Members

Althouse
Black
Butland
Fulton
Howdebo
Laporte
Mitchell
Nystrom
Riis
Skelly (North Island—Powell River)
Stupich
Waddell—23

Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing)
Blackburn (Brant)
de Jong
Gardiner
Langan (Mission—Coquitlam)
McCurdy
Murphy
Parker
Samson
Skelly (Comox—Alberni)
Taylor

NAYS

Members

Benjamin—1

• (1730)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I declare the motion carried.

Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Point of order, the hon. government Whip.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I realize it is not one of those very tense situations in the House of Commons

where the voting is close or there is any disagreement. But the precedents we set in this Chamber can, on another occasion, be extremely important.

For a member to stand in his place and vote twice would be a very dangerous precedent. In the calling for the yeas I heard the member from Regina's name called at an appropriate time. When you called the nays, I heard the same member called the second time. I do not think that kind of precedent can be allowed to remain on the books. It is totally inappropriate in this Chamber for members to vote twice.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. I know that the hon. new leader of the New Democratic Party has announced that from now on the New Democrats intend to be the real official opposition. I do not know if—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Prud'homme: Now that you are enjoying the first part I hope you will enjoy the last part.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Prud'homme: I hope she did not mean that she was to become the official opposition through trickery or otherwise by having some members voting twice on both sides of the issue.

Therefore, I suggest to you that if the hon. member has voted for and against the motion that would be quite unique in the annals of the British parliamentary system. If that is the way the New Democrats intend to run their affairs in this new leadership I would like to be on notice so we will know how to behave in the future.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I am the hon. member for Regina—Lumsden and I object to the non-point of order raised by the member who just spoke. I want to say to you, Sir, in the chair, that I did not rise on the first vote.

I will admit I lifted my backside from the chair an inch.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Benjamin: Then I decided no. I don't know why I have to vote with my House Leader all the time. More importantly, the point is, I did not vote. Mr. Speaker, you and I have been here the same number of years. I have always risen and bowed to the Chair at full length—yours and mine—and I did not do that. I did not rise on the first vote. I am always respectful of the clerks at the table