

Government orders

prosperity that it has not yet enjoyed. The proud people of Newfoundland want this project.

All members of the House who represent the province of Newfoundland have spoken eloquently about this bill. It is our hope that the amendment to the amendment offered today by the member for Gatineau—La Lièvre will make this bill even better and will achieve greater prosperity not only for Newfoundland, but for all Canada. Again, it is my hope that we will vote in favour of this bill and we will adopt it unanimously later today.

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, it is a great honour for me to have the opportunity to speak—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lapierre: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Leblanc (Longueuil): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of

Mr. Plamondon: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order—

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Timiskaming had the floor. He had started his remarks—

Mr. Lapierre: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Madam Deputy Speaker: There is a member of this House who clearly expect the Chair to look in all directions and see everything at once. Unfortunately, this is not a privilege which comes with the job.

• (1710)

According to the normal rotation that applied all through proceedings on this bill, the next speaker should be somebody from the government side.

I have recognized the hon. member—

Mr. Lapierre: On a point of order!

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order.

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Madam Speaker, I ask and move that the hon. member for Rosemont be now heard.

Mr. Leblanc (Longueuil): I second the motion, Madam Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Timiskaming had been recognized and had started his remarks.

The hon. member.

[*English*]

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I know this has been a very difficult—

[*Translation*]

Some hon. members: That is not true!

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): You are being partisan, Madam Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, it is a tradition of this House—

Mr. Lapierre: Madam Speaker is neutral.

Mr. Boudria: —that all members respect the authority we ourselves entrusted in the Speaker. The authority of the Chair is not imposed on us. We gave that authority to the Chair.

Therefore, by that very fact, the Chair has the confidence of the House. If the House decided otherwise, it would freely address the issue.

In the meantime, Madam Speaker, I find it unacceptable that any member challenge the authority of the Chair because that would be challenging the authority we entrusted in the Chair.

This is the basis for my objection, Madam Speaker. I consider it is an insult, not only to the Chair, but in fact to the whole House which has decided who should preside over its proceedings.

Mr. Lapierre: On the same point of order!

[*English*]

Mr. Nunziata: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have sat in my seat patiently all afternoon trying to listen to the debate. I would like to commend you for the patience you have shown during the deliberations all afternoon.