

Government Orders

Madam Deputy Speaker: The question was very clear. The hon. member put the motion, I put the question to the House and nobody said no.

Orders of the day.

An hon. member: No.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I cannot see a point of order but I will of course listen to the hon. member for Winnipeg Transcona.

Mr. Blaikie: Madam Speaker, there is no need for the Chair to disgrace itself in this way—

[*Translation*]

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am well aware that the issue we are about to deal with is a very difficult one, as it is the object of much contention and kindles passion—

[*English*]

The hon. member will please allow the Chair to answer some of the concerns that have been raised.

An hon. member: Take a vote.

Mr. Barrett: You are being stupid.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am on my feet. I would appreciate if the hon. member would withdraw that comment. That was not to me personally. I think not. Do not apologize to me but please apologize to the Chair and to this institution.

Mr. Barrett: Madam Speaker, when the Chair starts acting worthy of the respect that the Chair deserves I will start apologizing.

• (1050)

An hon. member: Point of order.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Just a minute, please. Let us go back a little bit. A motion was put from the floor. I put the motion to the House. I asked if the House was ready to adopt this motion. I have checked now with the Table and nobody at the table heard anyone say no. It might have been said but it was not heard at this end of the House. It is also the members' duty to make sure that they are heard. Certainly hon. members can do what is needed to be heard at this end of the House. This time they were not.

I declared the motion carried and the motion is carried. We will now proceed. I will now put the motion to the House.

Some hon. members: A point of order.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre), seconded by Mr. Andre moves that Bill C-115, an act to—

Some hon. members: Point of order.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am putting a motion to the House; it cannot be interrupted—an act to amend the North American free trade agreement be now read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? Debate.

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NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister of International Trade) moved that Bill C-115, an act to implement the North American free trade agreement be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

He said: Madam Speaker—

Some hon. members: Point of order.

Madam Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the hon. member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca.

Mr. Barrett: Madam Speaker, with respect, you said that you may not have heard nos, so you may have been in error. Yes, Madam Speaker, you said you may not have heard. That is the point that we are making.

Two members have said they said no. If you are calling them liars, which you are not doing, you said you may not have heard it. What I am suggesting is that you put the vote, based on an hon. member's word.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Madam Deputy Speaker: I said I did not hear anyone say no, and the officers at the Table did not hear anyone either. I then made a decision, and that decision is maintained. I must say I do not appreciate the comments that are being made, both directly and indirectly, at this time. If hon. members disagree with the Chair's decision, which was made in good faith, there is a procedure with which hon. members are quite familiar, and they can use that procedure, under our Standing Orders. However, for the time being, the decision stands and is not open for discussion. The minister has the floor.