

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Agreed and so ordered.

Mr. Trudeau: On making an appendage to *Hansard*, particularly in provinces where there are several ministers, it remains the privilege of the government to adjust these ridings from time to time; and with a view to achieving the greatest possible efficiency in serving the Canadian people, we reserve the privilege of doing that.

Madam Speaker: Then does that mean that there is not unanimous consent to append this list to *Hansard*? There is?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, on a point of order—perhaps continuing the one raised just a few moments ago—I guess the government has every right to change these things, as they have the right to change acting ministers; but I would ask for an undertaking from the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), if he is agreeable. If there are changes in these political ministers, will he table them in the House of Commons when they are made, having now established the practice, here in the House, of tabling the names of acting ministers? Would he undertake to do so, exactly as we do now with acting ministers who are appointed by order in council?

Mr. Trudeau: Since this list is made public for the convenience of the electorate and the members of the House of Commons and of the Senate, I would be happy, when it is drawn to my attention that there is a change, to make this change known in some way. I do not think that this particular aspect of government practice is a statutory matter. I think it is a matter of convenience. I undertake, in so far as it is practical, and I am reminded of it, to acquaint members of the opposition parties, as indeed my own members, about any change in responsibilities.

An hon. Member: Particularly your own.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My point of order—and I think it ties in with the last comment made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau)—is on this word, “incessant”. According to the Oxford dictionary, “incessant” means unceasing, continual, repeated.

I would assume, if the Prime Minister used that word advisedly, and he said that we should consult our dictionary, he means that he is going to be repeating the tabling of this type of document—

Mr. MacEachen: As required, incessantly.

Mr. Stevens:—that it will go on in an unceasing way, that it will be a continual tabling of the document. If that is so, I think the Prime Minister should confirm his position that every time there is a change, without him being reminded, he will follow up what he has committed himself to do today and that is, table the revision to the document tabled today, that is incessantly, if you like, to use the Prime Minister’s expression.

Privilege—Mr. Rae

Mr. Trudeau: We are into semantics, at this point. What I can say is that incessantly, I will table these bits of information without cease, and—

Mr. MacEachen: Continuously.

Mr. Trudeau:—and continuously, as appropriate. If the hon. member consults his etymology, he will realize that to do something incessantly—

An hon. Member: How about phenology?

Mr. Trudeau:—means that you will do it without cease, meaning that you will continue to do it after you have sat down from speaking on one subject.

Mr. Rae: I wonder if the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) would entertain one question. May I ask the Prime Minister one question?

Madam Speaker: Well, I want to remind hon. members that usually one does not enter into debate in the course of a question of privilege. However, the Right Hon. Prime Minister has accepted a question, and is now signalling that he will accept a second one. I do not think that we should indulge in that practice, but I will acknowledge the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae).

Mr. Rae: Madam Speaker, if the Prime Minister will have a look at *Hansard* for February 18 with respect to the privilege which I raised, I wonder if he could tell us whether the practice with respect to letters going out to constituents in Broadview-Greenwood is the same as the practice for letters going out to a riding held by a Liberal Member of Parliament, or whether the Liberal Member of Parliament takes credit for grants in that riding rather than the minister politically responsible.

Mr. Trudeau: I have had a slight canvass made of ministers on this subject, and my understanding is that there is no absolute, firm practice. I have here one minister who makes announcements and ensures that cheques or announcements or pieces of paper, or whatever they are, are often dealt with through members of the opposition party when they have to do with that particular riding. Other ministers do not do that. I think the essence of it is that each minister acts in whatever way he thinks is more conducive to the public good of Canada.

An hon. Member: Which do you think is better?

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member asks which I think is better; and that is the third question, and perhaps the last one that I have time to answer today.

In a better world, I would hope the method the hon. member prefers would be the one that we would follow. But I would point out to him that we are in a very practical world where there are provincial cabinets all across the land and provincial governments which are constantly trying to assert—

Mr. Knowles: Where is that better world?