Point of Order

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I appreciate the opportunity afforded a Member who has abstained to make a brief statement and give an explanation.

I am profoundly opposed to those provisions of the Meech Lake Accord which may weaken the important role-

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: There is a tradition in this place according to which Member who has abstained may rise briefly to give an explanation. I would ask Hon. Members to extend that courtesy.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly opposed to those provisions of the Meech Lake Accord which may weaken the important role of the federal Government and allow for the possibility that fundamental rights of women and minorities as set out in the Charter may be overridden, diminish the status of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and show a lack of recognition and respect for the aboriginal peoples of Canada. [Translation]

But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I regretted Quebec's exclusion of the Constitutional Accord of 1981, as well as I have always favoured the recognition of Quebec's distinct society which requires, for a fundamental part of this character to be guaranteed, that the principles of Bill 101 be obeyed and applied.

[English]

For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I have abstained on this most important vote.

POINT OF ORDER

ALLOTTED DAYS—PRECEDENCE OF OPPOSITION MOTIONS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to suggest that this should not be an allotted day. I refer to the terms of Standing Order 58(5) and Citation 478 of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition which reads:

Under the terms of S. O. 58(5), twenty-five days are allotted to the business of Supply in each year. Although technically the business under discussion is government business, motions given precedence on these allotted days may be moved only by Members in opposition to the Government. To this extent, there is a distinction between the business of supply and other government business with respect to S. O. 18.

I submit that, as a result of today, the motion given precedence was, of course, an initiative by the Government. For that reason, I believe that today ought not to be an allotted

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, I caught my hon. friend's argument but I would submit that the wording of the motion on allotted days is entirely within the control of the New Democratic Party or the Liberal Party, whichever one has the allotted day. It is my understanding that today's allotted day was for the New Democrats. Surely having drafted the order themselves, they, cannot then argue that what they have put on the Order Paper is, therefore, out of order. It has been

Danis Darling Daubney de Cotret de Jong Della Noce Dick Domm Duguay Duplessis Edwards Ellis Epp (Provencher) Fennell Fontaine Forrestall Foster Fraleigh Fretz Fulton Gagliano Gagnon Garneau Gauthier Girard Gormley (Bonaventure—Îles-dela-Madeleine) Gray

(Windsor West) Greenaway Grisé Grondin (Saint-Jacques) (Drummond)

Guilbault Guilbault Gustafson Halliday Hamelin Hamilton Hardey Harvey Hawkes Heap Hicks Hnatyshyn Holtmann Hopkins Horner Howie Hudon Isabelle James Jardine Jelinek Jepson Jewett

Johnson (Bonavista-Trinity-Conception) Joncas Jourdenais Kaplan Keeper Kelleher Kempling Kilgour Killens King Ladouceur Landry Langdon Lapierre Leblanc Lesick Lewis MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands) MacDougall (Timiskaming) MacKay Mailly Malone Mantha Marin Martin Masse Mayer Mazankowski

McCrossan McCuish McDermid McDonald (Broadview Greenwood) McInnes McKinnon McKnight McMillan Merrithew Mitchell Mitges Moore Mulroney Nicholson (Niagara Falls) Nystrom Oberle O'Neil

Peterson Pietz Price Prud'homme Ravie Redway Reimer Ricard Riis Rodriguez Rompkey Rossi St-Julien Schellenberg (Nanaimo-Alberni) Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin) Scott (Victoria-Haliburton) Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth) Shields Siddon Skelly Sparrow Spever

Tardif (Richmond-Wolfe) Tardif (Charlesbourg) Taylor Thacker Tobin Toupin Towers Tremblay (Ouébec-Est) Tupper Turner (Ottawa-Carleton) Turner

(Vancouver Quadra) Valcourt Van De Walle Vézina Vincent Wenman White (Swift Current -Maple Creek) Winegard

Wise Witer Young-200

NAYS

Members

Berger Caccia Finestone Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount) McLaughlin

Oostrom

Orlikow

Ouellet

Paproski

Pennock

Pépin

Nickerson Penner-7

• (1630)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.