

Privilege

thereon, the Speaker shall put every question necessary to dispose of the said motion. Any proceeding interrupted pursuant to this section of this Standing Order shall be deemed adjourned.

Mr. Speaker, that was not done. Standing Order 78(2) was not followed. From all this flows Standing Order 78(3) which says that if we could not get agreement under Standing Order 78(1) and we could not get agreement under Standing Order 78(2), then the government can come and consult with the parties and possibly after that consultation give a notice. I will read it:

(3) A Minister of the Crown who from his or her place in the House, at a previous sitting, has stated that an agreement could not be reached under the provisions of sections (1) or (2) of this Standing Order in respect of proceedings at the stage at which a public bill was then under consideration either in the House or in any committee, and has given notice of his or her intention so to do, may propose a motion during proceedings under Government Orders, for the purpose of allotting a specified number of days or hours for the consideration and disposal of proceedings at that stage; provided that the time allotted for any stage is not to be less than one sitting day and provided that for the purposes of this section of this Standing Order an allocation may be proposed in one motion to cover the proceedings at both the report and the third reading stages on a bill—

And so on. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I submit to you, this House was misled intentionally by this government, was not—

• (1110)

Some hon. members: Order, order.

Mr. Gauthier: I am using my words carefully, Mr. Speaker, and I will use those words carefully and I use them knowing exactly what they mean.

Mr. Speaker: Well, it is a very serious charge. I just want to consider my position for a moment or two. I would ask the hon. member to take his seat. I want to consider my position for a moment or two.

The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier has raised, by way of a question of privilege—

Mr. Cooper: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. parliamentary secretary.

Mr. Cooper: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I just want a point of clarification. If you are rising to make a ruling, it would be important that we on this side have an opportunity to

respond. I just wanted to clarify that. It is not to interrupt the Chair in any way.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the hon. parliamentary secretary and perhaps I should have made that clear. I am not, at this moment, making a ruling on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier. I am dealing with another matter that has emerged during the hon. member's intervention. But I want all hon. members and I want the public to understand where I am and what it is I have to do at the moment.

The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier has, by way of a question of privilege, said in effect that the notice given by the hon. minister yesterday under the rules is not a proper notice because the minister has said that agreement could not be reached and that things that should have taken place have not taken place.

Earlier in the argument he said that the minister rose to give notice late yesterday afternoon after three speakers had debated and that by saying that agreement could not be reached he misled the House.

I would ask for hon. members' attention, please. That is not an easy subject. At that stage the hon. member had said the minister had misled the House.

Mr. Gauthier: No, I said the government misled the House.

Mr. Speaker: All right, through the minister the government had misled the House.

At that point there had been no accusations of deliberateness. Now, at a later stage in the argument, there is an accusation of deliberateness. If I have misunderstood what the hon. member said—and if what the hon. member said is that the government deliberately misled the House and that is not directed at the minister—then I would like clarification for that.

I do have the "blues" in front of me. I want to be absolutely sure that we do not have an accusation of deliberate misleading against the minister which has emerged from an argument that may or may not be valid on other grounds. That is the difficulty the Chair is in.

I will hear the hon. member for Kamloops and maybe he will be able to assist the Chair. I will hear the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier in a moment.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker—