

Point of Order—Mr. Siddon

House. Many members feel that the answers are not related to the questions they have asked. I think that that disposes of that point. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is entitled to his opinion in this regard.

[Translation]

With regard to the question of privilege of the hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn), it seems to me it will be easier for me to rule since, in his intervention, the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) expressed an opinion on the way hon. members rise under Standing Order 43. The hon. member for Saskatoon West does not share the views of the minister, but that again is an opinion. Therefore, there is nothing here for me to decide.

The hon. member for Saskatoon West also brought up the possibility that the remarks of the Postmaster General may have implied indirect criticism of the Chair. Frankly, at the time the minister spoke, I did not feel I was being alluded to. But the hon. member is entirely correct when he says that it is up to the Speaker to decide whether or not the motions presented under Standing Order 43 respect our rules, and when I ask for the unanimous consent of the House, I suppose one must conclude I consider them in order. Consequently, the Chair alone decides in the matter and I thank the hon. member for having pointed that out; but in all honesty I must say I doubt that the Chair was criticized, even indirectly. Therefore, I am sorry I cannot hear other hon. members who would like to speak to the two questions that were brought up. I gave a ruling on the first. As for the second, concerning unparliamentary language, I shall look at *Hansard* and give a ruling a little later.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, very briefly, it was not my intention to raise a second question. It was merely to add another point to the original question raised by the hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn). The submission was that it was simply either a question of privilege or a point of order, taken together.

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POINTS OF ORDER

MR. SIDDON—ATMOSPHERE IN CHAMBER WITH RESPECT TO
S.O. 43 MOTIONS

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order which is somewhat detached from the question of privilege which was just raised. However, I think that it does have to do with the atmosphere in the House this afternoon and the subsequent attack by government members opposite on the motives of hon. members on this side of the House with respect to placing motions under Standing Order 43.

In putting my motion under Standing Order 43, which was fourth on your list, I found the banter and the clamour in the

chamber very difficult to deal with. Perhaps there are some ministers and members opposite who are under a lot of pressure these days which is making them temperamental. I believe that the background hubbub was coming from that side of the House because I believe that members on this side want to hear the motions under Standing Order 43. I think that that atmosphere of banter, or collegiality if one wishes to call it that, is really a frustrating calamity which is distracting to hon. members on this side when they are trying to put their motions.

With all due respect, Madam Speaker, I suggest that the atmosphere and the environment of the House, particularly during question period, are very important. I do not wish to see cabinet ministers provoked to the kind of exchanges which the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) seemed to be guilty of this afternoon. I suggest, Madam Speaker, that you speak to the House leaders in an attempt to prevent a recurrence of the calamity which we witnessed this afternoon.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: I think that the hon. member realizes, as I am beginning to learn, that from day to day the atmosphere in this House varies. I am trying to understand it, but I am not sure that I can understand fully the reasons which cause the House to be rowdy one day and more silent the next day. Sometimes it is merely that spring is in the air, and other times it is something else.

When members of the opposition feel that they have a point, they get very excited, and justifiably so. That makes for a lively question period. I do not like to rise like a springboard all the time to call order. I am sure that that would not be acceptable to hon. members. I watch for the moment when the House seems to be getting too noisy before I call order. I do not wish to cry wolf too often because I do not think that is a good tactic. I have been receiving the co-operation of the House. It is true that the atmosphere was a bit more rowdy this afternoon, but I do not think that hon. members were prevented from listening to the hon. member's motion under Standing Order 43.

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, I would like to make a comment on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon). It has to do with the whole business of Standing Order 43s with regard to the atmosphere and the works. Your task, Madam Speaker, is a very onerous and difficult one. The reason that it appears sometimes that motions under Standing Order 43 are placed on various subjects which may not be truly of a national nature, pressing or urgent, is because of the difficulty of hon. members on both sides of the House in bringing up important matters relating to their constituencies, and the fact that it is not possible to get on in the question period as frequently as some hon. members would like.

I suggest that all members of this House look toward some method which will offer greater opportunity for members to put short questions or motions before the House on matters of