

Non-Confidence in Deputy Speaker

An hon. Member: Sixteen seconds.

Another hon. Member: Fifteen seconds.

Mr. Gregoire: Fourteen seconds. Someone said it was 16 seconds and another one 15 seconds. Let us say 15 seconds, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. Member: You read too fast.

Mr. Gregoire: —I would like you to note that if somebody from another corner of the house had risen when I raised the point of order, at least five to six seconds would have elapsed before the Speaker recognized that other member, which means that the margin is reduced to ten seconds. There is another thing I would point out, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Belanger) made use of his earphones to listen to the interpretation of the explanations which the Prime Minister gave immediately after introducing his motion, and when he had grasped the subject matter of the Prime Minister's speech by means of the interpretation and the earphones four or five additional seconds may have elapsed, which would mean that the hon. member for Charlevoix would have let five or six seconds pass between the moment when the Prime Minister finished reading his motion and the instant he rose to object, and the Prime Minister never asked the unanimous consent of the house.

Mr. Speaker, those are the facts. An hon. member had hardly five to six seconds to rise and register his disagreement in respect of the unanimous consent. The hon. member for Charlevoix could not rise before the right hon. Prime Minister's motion was read out, because it would have been illogical to do so. If the right hon. Prime Minister had risen to introduce a motion tending to increase family allowances, the hon. member for Charlevoix would not have opposed its being introduced immediately. If there had been a request for unanimous consent to consider a motion concerning unemployment, the hon. member for Charlevoix would not have objected. This is why the Prime Minister had to be granted the necessary time to read his motion, to see if unanimous consent should be granted or not. Once the motion was read, the hon. member for Charlevoix rose and objected; he indicated his disagreement to the unanimous consent scarcely five or six seconds after the reading of the motion had started.

If we consider that the hon. member for Charlevoix should have risen as soon as the Prime Minister had finished saying: "By leave, I move", the hon. member for Charlevoix would only have taken two seconds to object.

[Mr. Gregoire.]

Mr. Speaker, after the hon. member had placed his objection on record I rose in my turn to make a few remarks and take exception to the procedure followed. Here is what the Deputy Speaker said, as reported on page 911 of *Hansard*:

The Chair already made a ruling in this respect. The Prime Minister preceded his remarks by saying that he had a motion to submit with the consent of the house.

As no objection was raised, the Chair suggested that the Prime Minister be given the opportunity to continue his remarks.

As we have just seen, five or six seconds after the Prime Minister had begun his remarks, the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Belanger) having risen, the Deputy Speaker said this:

I can only repeat the ruling which I made a moment ago. We have already initiated the procedure—

And mark these words:

—with the unanimous consent of the house, since no objection has been made.

Is this the unanimous consent of the house when no objection has been made? Hardly five or six seconds had elapsed since the Prime Minister had started to speak.

Mr. Speaker, those are facts which speak for themselves. I maintain that in those circumstances, the position taken by the Deputy Speaker was unaccountable and inconsistent with standing order 41. I shall now sum up the three points of my motion.

Standing order 41 provides that in order to introduce a motion without giving 48 hours' notice, the unanimous consent of the house is required. The right hon. Prime Minister never did ask for unanimous consent. The Chair did not ask whether the Prime Minister had unanimous consent, as is always done. I have been a member for nearly two years now and when a minister, a member or the right hon. Prime Minister rose to present a motion without having given 48 hours' notice, or any motion requiring 48 hours' notice or unanimous consent of the house, the Deputy Speaker or the committee chairman has always stood and asked: "Does the Prime Minister or the hon. member have unanimous consent of the house?" However, that evening, that procedure was not followed.

The hon. member for Charlevoix raised an objection as soon as he could. I have just shown that five or six seconds may have elapsed between the time the Prime Minister got to his feet and the moment he started to explain his motion.

One cannot raise an objection against a motion unless one knows what it is all about. That is precisely what the hon. member for Charlevoix did. He protested as soon as he