

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Andre: I wish the hon. member would do me the courtesy of accepting what I am saying and not interrupting me and not questioning my motives, which is so much his habit. The reality is that all of the relevant information will be made available.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to impugn the motives of the government House leader, but I do want to inform him of the procedure which was set up by the minister of state for small businesses for obtaining the documents, particularly the ones he refers to as being seven-foot high.

Yesterday members of my caucus who went to try and get those documents found that copies were made available to media representatives when, in fact, our colleagues and our research people had to read the documents and thereafter request a Xeroxed copy of the information that they were looking for.

I am not suggesting that there is a double standard here. But I am wondering if the minister could take under advisement my suggestion that this matter be looked at and perhaps a way found in which to expedite the relinquishing of that information so that it is made available, not just to representatives of the media. Because this is a major issue affecting the country, we think that it ought to be made available quickly and promptly to all members of Parliament.

I mention that in the spirit of trying to get all of the information.

Mr. Andre: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, that is the intent. What might have happened is that a number of members of the media had put in access to information requests. As you know, in that regard there is a cost associated. The applicant pays for the duplicating costs and so on. There is no intent to try and put obstacles. On the other hand, there is a very real concern that we may be saddled with several hundred thousand dollars worth of bills for duplication and so on if it is thrown wide open. I can assure the hon. member that I will communicate the facts he just informed me of and see what we can do to make sure that the information is accessible.

Mr. Kindy: A point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member would hear the Chair first.

The exchange that has taken place is, I hope, helpful. I have to remind the House that is getting well beyond a point of order.

Is the hon. member for Calgary Northeast on the same point?

Mr. Kindy: No.

Mr. Speaker: I will hear the hon. member.

RECORDED DIVISIONS

Mr. Kindy: Mr. Speaker, I wanted a clarification from you concerning the votes of June 3, in particular vote 150. The question is of pairing. I see that some members were paired with people who have died. This may be an error. It happens that Mr. Malepart is appearing as being paired with somebody.

The question of pairing as such concerns me because Erskine May, 21st edition, defines pairing as a "system that enables a member to absent himself or herself, and to agree with another member that he or she will be absent at the time of the vote. By this mutual agreement, a vote is neutralized on each side of a question, and the actual size of the majority is not affected".

I see that members on vote 150 are paired and have voted and are on the same side. I would like you to clarify for me and maybe for other members and for the public generally just how it works.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that the Deputy Speaker has addressed the House on this point. I will consider very carefully the intervention of the hon. member for Calgary Northeast and report back to the House if that is appropriate. In any event I will be in touch with him.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

MINISTER'S ADVISORY GROUP ON DEFENCE
INFRASTRUCTURE

TABLING OF REPORT

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister Responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to table today in accordance with Standing Order 32(2) the report of the Minister's Advisory Group on Defence Infrastructure, in both official languages.