

Point of Order—Mr. Nielsen

In the name of all hon. members, I want to wish him well in whatever capacity. As Speaker I would be the last one to prophesy anyone's political fortunes, so I shall not qualify that!

May the qualities and talents which the hon. member has displayed in the House, as well as the experience he has gained which I am sure is considerable, be of good counsel to him in his new endeavours.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

VACANCY

BROADVIEW-GREENWOOD—BOB RAE BY RESIGNATION

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for the electoral district of Broadview-Greenwood having given notice of his intention to resign his seat in the House, it is my duty to inform the House that when the notice has been entered by the Clerk on the *Journals* pursuant to Section 6.(1)(a) of the House of Commons Act, Chapter H-9 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970, I shall forthwith issue my warrant to the Chief Electoral Officer to issue a new writ of election for the election of a new member for the said electoral district.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

MR. NIELSEN—S.O. 43. MOTIONS MOVED BY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, I have a brief point of order. The Chair will have noted the appointment yesterday of several new parliamentary secretaries. As the Chair will recall, under the very first ruling of Mr. Speaker Jerome, one which he made in 1974 and which has been with us since, parliamentary secretaries are not permitted to move motions under Standing Order 43. It was probably an oversight on the part of the—I see you nodding in the negative Madam Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: —and the “Disco Duck” saying “not true” also.

Mr. Speaker Jerome ruled that parliamentary secretaries would not be recognized for the purpose of putting motions under Standing Order 43, which was not the case with respect to putting questions. He allowed that and indeed you, Madam Speaker, have allowed that, notwithstanding the fact that I have raised it as a point of order in the past. Each time a point of order has been raised with respect to a parliamentary secretary moving a motion under Standing Order 43, the Chair has prevented it.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment (Mr. Schroder), newly appointed yesterday, I believe, put a motion under Standing Order 43 today. I hope we will revert

to the practices that were established under Mr. Speaker Jerome which you, Madam Speaker, have been following in this session. I see you nodding in the negative again, Madam Speaker, but I do not recall an instance where a motion under Standing Order 43 has been accepted by the Chair.

Mr. Lalonde: Why not?

Mr. Nielsen: Because it has been the practice for six years not to do so, that is why.

I suggest that rather than being allowed to put motions under Standing Order 43, they can damn well call up the department of the minister concerned and get the answer. I suggest that the same applies with equal force to questions.

If this is going to be allowed to cut into the privileges of members on all sides of the House, then in my submission it is an infringement on the time that is normally given to private members. The situation is as ludicrous as it would be for the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) to ask questions of the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). Perhaps she would have been better served had she done that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: I can hear the “Disco Duck” over there again. I submit that the practice should be honoured and parliamentary secretaries should not move motions under Standing Order 43.

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, this very point was raised by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) about two months ago and Your Honour ruled that it was quite in order and that any member was entitled to move a motion under Standing Order 43. That was made quite clear and it has been the practice regularly, perhaps two or three times a week, during this session. It is not something which has happened suddenly, and Madam Speaker ruled on this and said that it was in order.

● (1520)

Madam Speaker: I refer the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) to Standing Order 15(2), which in part reads:

Members, other than ministers of the Crown, may propose motions pursuant to Standing Order 43 at this time.

That is the time which is set out in the Standing Orders. I believe my predecessor ruled out the possibility that parliamentary secretaries would ask questions—

Mr. Nielsen: No, it was the other way around; motions under Standing Order 43.

Madam Speaker: Yes, I think he allowed motions under Standing Order 43. If my memory serves me right—but I will not insist on it because I am really basing my remarks on the Standing Orders—I rule and confirm that parliamentary secretaries may put motions under Standing Order 43, but they may not ask questions.