

*Government Orders*

**Mr. Riis:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** You're pulling that stunt again.

**Mr. Angus:** Point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I recognized the hon. member for Trois-Rivières on debate and he has started his debate. Therefore, I cannot recognize the hon. member's point of order, unless it has something to do with anything in particular.

**Mr. Riis:** You don't know what it has to do with.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Well, all right. I will recognize the hon. member on his point of order. The hon. member for Kamloops on a point of order.

**Mr. Riis:** My point of order was simply this, Mr. Speaker. At the beginning of the debate I sought to be recognized on a point of order. It was that the hon. member for Surrey North be now heard. That was my point of order. I am quite able to present that motion. Now, whether you accept the motion, Mr. Speaker, is for you to decide, I acknowledge that, but not to simply rule my point of order out of order.

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, we are now gaining a certain amount of experience when it comes to these issues, after the games the NDP have played last week and again this week.

The bottom line of our understanding of this procedure is that once an hon. member rises and begins to speak, if the Speaker hears him begin to speak, then that particular motion is out of order. It was very clear from where I sit, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member who you recognized had begun speaking and therefore the motion by the hon. member for Kamloops is out of order.

• (1210)

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, when you called Government Orders the member for Surrey North was clearly standing in his place. No other member of this House was standing. I watched carefully, Mr. Speaker. You did look to the member for Surrey North. You did see him—or at least you gave the impression of seeing him. I would ask that you consider the motion by the House Leader of the New Democratic Party as one that is quite in order.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I was also present during those deliberations. The way I recall it, which may differ from other people, is that indeed you did recognize the

member for Surrey North. At that time you had not called debate and he said, "I want to speak on debate".

The member for Ottawa South was on a point of order and you did say you were going to recognize points of order. The point of order made by the member for Ottawa South was recognized, then you called for debate. I heard the member being called take the floor at the time. Whether the point of order was heard by you before he took the floor or not, Mr. Speaker, is for you to decide, not for me.

The only motion that we can make on a point of order, I think, is that so and so be heard instead of another member. I would leave it to you, Mr. Speaker, to decide whether the member had the floor. And if you gave him the floor I think it is very clear in the rules who has the floor at this time.

**Mr. Barrett:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, it might be useful for the House to take a five-minute recess to allow the Chair to go through the record rather than us having this debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I really do not need a five-minute recess for this purpose. I recognized the hon. member for Trois-Rivières on debate. He started to speak before the hon. member rose on a point of order. Therefore, on debate, the hon. member for Trois-Rivières has the floor.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Vincent:** Mr. Speaker, at the risk of repeating myself, I welcome the opportunity to take part in the debate today on the goods and services tax bill.

Thanks to this bill, we will be able to strengthen our economy, reduce the deficit and make our tax system more equitable.

I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) on this excellent initiative. Actually, Mr. Speaker, when you think about it, the job of Minister of Finance has never been an easy one. The situation has not improved today, now that we are facing problems that are both extremely urgent and complex. The world is economy is changing quickly in a host of different ways.

Since he was appointed, the Minister of Finance has shown that he is intelligent, responsible, effective and a man of great courage.