

Has there been any departure from the Standing Orders in the tabling of documents, statements by ministers or answering questions on the Order Paper? Not a bit. I read on:

—or the customary modes of proceeding in debate—

We are not into debate. When we are in a debate you can get up at any time. Many times members get up. They may not have good ground for it but at least they have the right to get up. It continues:

—or in the conduct of legislative business.

Mr. Stevens: Yes.

Mr. Knowles: My friend says yes. We are not in the conduct of legislative business.

Mr. Stevens: Yes.

Mr. Knowles: No, we are not, we are in routine proceedings. We have not got to legislative business. We did not get to it all day Tuesday, I suppose we will not get to it all day today and I do not suppose we will get to it all day tomorrow.

Some hon. Members: Right on.

Mr. Knowles: There you are. I have been through this kind of thing before. I plead with my friends in all corners of the House to recognize that the most important thing in a situation like this is the preservation of Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles: One of the ways to preserve Parliament is to preserve and protect the person we put in the Chair to guide and direct the deliberations of this House. Attacks on the person in the Chair can lead to serious consequences.

I repeat, Madam Speaker, we are not in legislative business, we are not in debate. No one can allege with respect to what we are dealing with, namely, the various items under routine proceedings, that there has been any departure from the Standing Orders. If there has been such a departure, let a member get up and say so, but let him cite it and say what it is. We have not heard that.

If you erred at all, Madam Speaker, it is not in the ruling that you gave that the Leader of the Opposition should wait until another time. If you erred at all, it is in not proceeding one by one down the items of routine proceedings until we get to government orders and something gets called. If in that process anything is done that is wrong, if the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Collette) who just tabled questions, I think that is what he was doing in the hubbub, did something wrong or did not answer somebody's question and that member wants to get up and raise a point of order, that is legitimate, but the point of order has to relate to what is before the House.

That is spelled out again in one of the citations which the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton read. In 235, referring to members, it states:

Points of Order

He should do so as soon as he perceives an irregularity in the proceedings which are engaging the attention of the House.

What has been engaging the attention of the House this afternoon and tonight—routine proceedings, presenting reports by standing and special committees, tabling of documents, statements by ministers, introduction of bills, first reading of Senate public bills, government notices of motions, motions and questions on the Order Paper. These are the things that have been engaging the attention of the House, and at any point anything was out of order with respect to those items would have been the proper subject of a point of order. But to get up and claim that it is a point of order as to whether or not the sub judice doctrine is being respected in the case of the constitutional package simply has no relation to those now engaging the attention of the House. If we cannot respect these rules and respect the Speaker when she draws our attention to the rules, we are in for the kind of trouble that I do not want to see during the next ten days this House is in session.

● (2120)

An hon. Member: What happens after ten days?

Mr. Knowles: My hon. friend asks what could happen in the next ten days? I said earlier that we might have a day like this tomorrow and the answer from the Tories was that we would. I hope they will reconsider that I hope they have not had a council of war and they think they can proceed to tear this House apart.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: Talk to the government.

An hon. Member: When are you going to get a cabinet post, Stan?

An hon. Member: You might accept the Senate before you are through.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, I do not mind these insults. Of course, I have just had the worst insult of all, the suggestion that I would go to the Senate; never!

I do plead that we calm down. Later on tonight I hope we will get to Item No. 41. When we reach that a discussion on a point of order or several points of order that are already before the House, will be quite in order. When we get back some day to 36, which is the constitutional package, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition in my view would be perfectly in order in rising on a point of order and saying, with respect to what would then be engaging the attention of the House, that in his view it is out of order.

But now, Madam Speaker, I plead, not just through you, but to my friends in the House, that if you try to go on from the present item to the next they do not howl as they did a few moments ago. In my view, you are doing your best, you should stay with it and you are perfectly right that while routine proceedings are engaging the attention of the House it is not in