

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I have always had a great deal of respect for the government House leader, but I hope he will explain that last statement about political wrangling. If he expects and wants co-operation, then he had better come clean and explain that last statement.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Alexander: This is most important. We are trying to create a mood of co-operation around here, but I do not know whether the minister wants it or not. I hope he will clarify this last statement for the House.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I would be very happy to consider any offers of co-operation from the other side. There are a number of items on the order paper that I believe could be dealt with expeditiously, and I am waiting for offers of co-operation.

[Translation]

Mr. Prud'homme: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Saint-Denis on a point of order.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, during this question period several members of the opposition from all parties rose to ask supplementary questions. I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that in one very specific instance I requested to ask a supplementary question from the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on a very important subject which I think occupied a great deal of the time of this House. However, you did not see fit to recognize me. Mr. Speaker, I hope that when a government member—

[English]

I speak slowly because I want you to understand through the translation system.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I hope you did not set a precedent today. I recognize your great competence as Speaker of this House but I would not want in the future a government member who requests to ask a supplementary question—which by the way was the only one asked by a Liberal—see his request denied on the only ground that he is a member of the party in power. Very seldom do you not recognize us because we sit with the party in power. The precedent set today does not really shock me. But I would say, Mr. Speaker, that you recognized members of the opposition on at least 14 occasions. That is your right. I do not question it. But you recognized their right to ask supplementary questions. I had only one supplementary which was the only supplementary question asked by a government member, and you did not see fit to recognize me.

I hope in the future, Mr. Speaker, you will give us the same treatment.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will surely recognize, in common with the interests of other members of the House, that several members on both sides were unable to be recognized today and they were not recognized yesterday. Some hon. members have been standing for two or three days trying to be recognized. It would be a

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wonderfully simple arrangement if all supplementary questions took precedence over any other kind, but that would mean the same members who asked the original question would be standing day after day. This is a most difficult problem, but surely the solution is not to take supplementary questions in preference to other questions because that would be most unfair to those who had been trying for two or three days to be recognized.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Prud'homme: Perhaps hon. members would be kind enough to wait just a minute. They have had their chance today.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has raised a very important and interesting issue. I have already made a number of remarks on this. Other hon. members want to ask questions or rise on a point of order. The hon. member has raised a very important issue and it is absolutely necessary to put an end to the discussion.

Order, please. The hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin) on a question of privilege.

Mr. Beaudoin: It is about the question of privilege on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. We are not upset. But we should like to remind you that Social Crediters were allowed only one question today. We are aware that yours is a very thankless and difficult task, but I meant to remind the hon. member that we had asked only one question today. We are not upset, but we wish we had been allowed to ask more.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will realize, as I do, that his caucus achieved the recognition of one questioner only today. The caucus immediately to his right achieved the recognition of only two. Both numbers are well below the number of members in both caucuses. However, I would also point out that the caucus of the official opposition achieved today, if I am not mistaken, the recognition of only 13 questioners. That is not enough, but it is partly due to the length of questions and answers over which I have no control.

[Later:]

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, again I rise in a spirit of co-operation in regard to the legislation that is so important to a great number of veteran citizens in Canada. If this legislation were introduced it could go through first, second and third readings in record time, in the interests of many hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

Over the years I have been here I have never offered anything but co-operation, but for some reason or other the President of the Privy Council has referred to political rancour, to which I take exception. This was not my purpose in rising and he should know better. If he wants to get legislation through for the betterment of all Canadians, he should introduce this legislation, which is very straightforward and will help many Canadians who are suffering from inflation and its effect on the incomes they receive.