

*Privilege—Mr. King*

**Mr. Andre:** How do you know? You have not heard it yet.

**Madam Speaker:**—was taken as being his statement, just as a statement made by another hon. member belongs to that hon. member. I think the way in which the Deputy Speaker dealt with the question closes the matter.

I do not have in my hand the quotation of the Deputy Speaker, but I read it before coming into the House, and the Deputy Speaker said quite clearly that if the hon. member for Okanagan-Similkameen (Mr. King) said that he was here at the time the division was taken, then he was here. That statement is taken at its face value. We are all hon. members, and if the hon. member said that he was here, then he was here and the matter is closed. The last item which appears in the record involving this particular exchange in the House is this:

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has made a statement and it is the practice of the House to accept the word of the hon. member.

Therefore, the hon. member has nothing to correct.

**Mr. McDermid:** It is one word against another.

**Madam Speaker:** The statement in *Hansard* is quite clear.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Okanagan-Similkameen (Mr. King) is rising on a question of personal privilege. His conduct has been the subject of comments by the government House leader which have been allowed to stay on the record. A similar matter was raised by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) and by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay) the other night, something unprecedented in our procedures. They were allowed to rise on questions involving them personally in order to put their explanations on the record.

All that the hon. member for Okanagan-Similkameen has on the record is a statement which is at odds with the statement made by the government House leader. All that the hon. member for Okanagan-Similkameen wishes to do is to provide the explanation that he was, in fact, in the House and had slipped over to speak with the hon. member from Chilcotin—

**Mr. Clark:** Prince George-Peace River.

**Mr. Nielsen:**—the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle). He was in the House when the question was put. After the question was put and while the vote was being recorded, he slipped over to speak to the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River and then resumed his seat. That is what he wanted to explain to the House and, Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** Order!

**Mr. Nielsen:**—he should be given the opportunity to make that explanation quite clear!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I think the hon. member has had the occasion to make that statement quite clear, and I quote from *Hansard* where the Deputy Speaker stated:

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The orders of the House provide that a member should be in his chair to hear the question put. Was the hon. member for Okanagan-Similkameen (Mr. King) in the chair to hear the question put?

MR. KING: Yes.

So I think that is quite clear. The record of the hon. member is straight and I think we all accept the word of the hon. member that he was in his seat at that time.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** If the hon. member for Yukon is rising again on this particular question, I do have to remind him that I cannot accept constant exchanges once I have ruled on the question. There is no question of privilege in this particular instance and the hon. member has made his case. I pointed out to him what is on the record. I think it is quite clear that his statement has been made for the record and I cannot accept further comments on this particular question. If the hon. member for Yukon has another question to raise, that is fine, I will hear him.

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### POINTS OF ORDER

MR. NIELSEN—RIGHT OF MEMBERS TO BE HEARD

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** By George, Madam Speaker, I do have another question to raise. It is the right of hon. members in this chamber to be heard and the obligation of the Chair to hear them.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nielsen:** I have sat here for too long observing double standards being applied.

**An hon. Member:** Nonsense!

**Mr. Nielsen:** I have heard short, sharp questions coming from this side this afternoon and answers a yard long coming from members opposite, with all sorts of observations about the questions but none whatsoever about the length of the answers.

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** These remarks about the way in which the question period is being directed—

**Mr. Andre:** Not just that!

**Madam Speaker:**—of course, are directed at myself, I presume. I think hon. members sometimes feel that the answers from the other side are too long—and ask me to cut them short. Some of them were short today. I fully recognize