

Privilege—Mr. Anguish

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to seek some clarification. I do not in any way challenge the earlier ruling of the Chair, but I wish to seek clarification with respect to a reference to a precedent from 1970 involving the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). The Chair did, I believe, indicate that that particular incident occurred following consultation and agreement involving all House Leaders. Perhaps the Speaker might indicate whether that is the case, because if that is the case—

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member did not hear me correctly. I am not going to start giving clarifications about my ruling, but the Hon. Member is a bit confused. I did say that this precedent occurred in 1970. That was prior to the time at which my predecessor, Mr. Speaker Jerome, in consultation with all the Leaders of the Parties, determined that during Question Period no other proceedings could occur. It was meant to preserve the Question Period as a bloc which would not be interrupted by any other proceedings. That, in a sense, is a bit illogical because, for example, we have the right of an Hon. Member of Parliament to raise a question of privilege. A question of privilege supersedes everything; the House is not supposed to be able to function if there is a real question of privilege to be discussed. However, even a question of privilege, it was determined, would be delayed until after the Question Period. That is all I said.

Mr. Benjamin: Madam Speaker, I fully accept your ruling and I am not questioning it or debating it, not in this Chamber. I would like to ask, Madam Speaker, if the moving of a motion constitutes debate in any way, shape or form under the rules. Just the action of moving a motion, does that constitute debate?

Madam Speaker: Is the Hon. Member saying the moving of a motion or of a petition?

Mr. Benjamin: The moving of a motion. Does that constitute debate?

Madam Speaker: The Speaker is not here to answer questions from Hon. Members. If they want a course on procedure, I can indicate many places where they can receive a course on procedure. I am not here to answer questions on procedure.

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PRIVILEGE**MR. ANGUISH—RIGHT TO PRESENT PETITIONS**

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. If you find it in order, I would like it referred to the appropriate committee, the Committee on Privileges and Elections, because I feel there has been an infringement on Hon. Members' rights within this House. I refer to Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, Citation 275(1), and I quote:

It is a fundamental rule that, with the exception of certain matters dealt with under Routine Proceedings, no question can be considered by the House unless it has been previously appointed either by a notice or a regular Order of the House. The paper known as *Order Paper and notices* is the official agenda printed on the responsibility of the Clerk of the House, containing all the proposed questions set out in accordance with the Standing Orders. All the proposed proceedings of the House are recorded in abbreviated form in that paper. To add to, or suppress from it, any proposal which the House has ordered would constitute a serious infringement on the privileges of the House of Commons. If any serious errors are made they may be corrected by the House only in open sitting with the Speaker in the Chair.

End of quote.

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please. I have this particular reference in Beauchesne. It is quite long. I do not believe the Hon. Member needs to read it out to me. I would just like to know what his question of privilege is.

Mr. Anguish: Madam Speaker, if you would allow me, I said I had come to the end of the quote, or that section which I—

Madam Speaker: Order. I would like to know, so I will understand the reasons for the Hon. Member quoting this particular article, what the question of privilege is. Because the Speaker has to rule immediately after the question is posed, the Hon. Member should give the Speaker a chance to know what it is all about. If I lose two or three minutes listening to quotes, that is time in which I cannot reflect on the Hon. Member's particular problem. Therefore, if Hon. Members would like to accommodate the Chair by telling the Chair immediately what their problem is, then I can reflect upon it.

Mr. Anguish: Coming directly to the point, Madam Speaker, many of my constituents in Saskatchewan had submitted to me a number of petitions which I had every right to expect I would be able to present in this House of Commons. I have reason to expect that because of the ancient and historical right of presenting petitions—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. There will be occasion to do that in the course of Routine Proceedings. Alternatively, under Article 71(1), I believe, if for some reason or other the House does not reach that particular time in the Routine Proceedings, an Hon. Member may file the petition with the Clerk. I suppose that answers the Hon. Member's question.

● (1620)

Mr. Anguish: Madam Speaker, please allow me to finish my question of privilege.

Mr. Cousineau: Sit down!

Mr. Anguish: Madam Speaker, my question of privilege is that up until yesterday I had every reason to presume that I could present these petitions on behalf of the petitioners yesterday in this House. Some of these petitioners were told that their petition would be presented in this House yesterday.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!