

Time Allocation

Second, I would like to try to give some indication, especially to the public, that what we saw this afternoon has happened before in this Chamber. When I say "has happened before in this Chamber" I mean that a number of members have felt that they had points of order or questions of privilege to raise at a certain stage in the proceedings. I want to remind Hon. Members that on October 26, 1983, as reported at page 28349 of *Hansard*, the following is indicated:

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The following is what is shown in *Hansard*, and those who work for *Hansard* may well have missed some of it:

MADAM SPEAKER: Motions.

AN HON. MEMBER: A point of order—

MR. MAZANKOWSKI: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister of Transport.

MR. AXWORTHY: Madam Speaker, I move—

MR. MAZANKOWSKI: A point of order.

MR. NIELSEN: A point of order.

MR. EPP: A point of order.

MR. MCKNIGHT: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Vegreville.

HON. DON MAZANKOWSKI (VEGREVILLE): I move:

That the Hon. Member for Yukon be now heard, Madam Speaker.

MR. PINARD: —

Mr. Pinard was the House Leader of the Liberal Government at that time.

MR. PINARD: A point of order.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is a motion on the floor.

MR. PINARD: A point of order.

An Hon. Member: Where is this leading us?

Mr. Speaker: I am just trying to give some indication that while some members may not have been happy with the fact that the Chair recognized the Minister, it is not the first time that it has been done. Mr. Pinard said:

Madam Speaker, with due respect, you are aware that I may raise a point of order before the Chair puts the motion, which it has not yet done. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) had already started to speak when the Member opposite was recognized on a point of order, and consequently, he is out of order and does not have the right to move his motion at this time.

MR. NIELSEN: The motion must be put, Madam Speaker.

Then, on the next day, on October 27, 1983, the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) rose and raised this entire matter. Madam Speaker dealt with it, and I will not go into all of what was said. I want to indicate to Hon. Members, and I will continue to hear debate on the point of order, that it just may be that what happened here in the House this afternoon is not as unprecedented as some Hon. Members have thought.

The Chair recognizes the Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Lewis), and will then recognize the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme).

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that my associate Parliamentary Secretary and I have worked long and

hard with the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) and we are seeing definite signs of improvement.

I wish to touch on one or two matters, Mr. Speaker. First, with respect to the Hon. Member for Comox—Powell River (Mr. Skelly), he was, as I indicated earlier, definitely within the confines of the House. He was in the House when the vote was called by the Chair. I very clearly felt that he should have the right to cast his vote, whether or not he was technically in his seat, since he was making an effort to get to it, albeit a belaboured one.

With respect to recognition by the Chair, I think the precedent which Your Honour has cited is very exact in regard to what does happen in fact in this Chamber; that is to say, we all rise to make an effort to be recognized. I do not think there is any Member in the House now or any member who has served in the House prior who was recognized first every time he or she thought he or she should be recognized first. Those are the breaks of the game and it happens.

I respectfully suggest that the operative words, the words which in fact started the clock ticking on this motion, and which were placed as I understand it from the Table at 3.56 p.m., were the words: "I move". The Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) used those words as quickly as he could.

Finally, I would like to deal with the comments of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson), who takes issue with the exact position on the *Order Paper and Notices* where this motion was moved.

Mr. Speaker, in your ruling yesterday you specified that you could best serve the interests of the House by allowing the motion moved yesterday by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council. That motion was to move to Motions. I point Your Honour to Standing Order 117 which states:

A Minister of the Crown who from his or her place in the House, at a previous sitting, has stated that an agreement could not be reached under the provisions of Standing Order 115 or 116 in respect of proceedings at the stage at which a public bill was then under consideration either in the House or in any committee, and has given notice of his or her intention so to do, may propose a motion—

It does not state "may propose a motion under Government Notices of Motions". It seems to me that the results of Your Honour's ruling are very definite. Once we got to Motions, and abiding by the tradition that a Minister of the Crown is normally recognized first, then it was entirely in order that my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, be recognized first and, second, used the words "I move", and therefore set the clock ticking on this two hour debate.

In closing, I suggest that this two hours would be better spent by members of the Opposition arguing the merits of whether or not time allocation should apply. The real merits of a time allocation motion are, first, is the amount of time appropriate, that is, the amount of time left to complete the Bill; and, second, is it appropriate that the Government place