

*Point of Order*

Order Paper this morning was embargoed. We had no information about it.

He may have had 48 hours' notice. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt of the New Democratic Party may have notified his members; but the government was not notified. There was not 48 hours' notice available to the government about the intention to have this vote.

Therefore, I suggest on that ground, in addition, there seemed to be the element that he knew something that we did not know. We were at the table requesting information. The person who put the motion on the table obviously asked for it to be embargoed. That is a choice which he made, but he chose deliberately to withhold the notice from all the members of the Chamber. I think that may add a somewhat different element to this matter. In fact, it may help you, Sir, to rule on this particular situation.

I think we have the general case, which I raised earlier, of whether or not a member of the opposition can simply put a permanent motion on the Order Paper which constitutes 48 hours' notice, forever and ever. I suggest that breaks the whole intent with respect to arranging the parliamentary calendar.

If you want to deal with the specific choice to embargo the information from the government, Mr. Speaker, then that clearly tells the House that members on this side of the House did not have the required 48 hours' notice in this particular case.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, since the question was put to me, I would like to reply.

Indeed, I think the question is important, and I did address the question in the debate in this House on the Message from the Senate concerning Bill C-21. I am sure the hon. member will recognize that I did, at that time, raise the issue. There are not very many motions of which opposition members are not given prior notice. However, there is one instance when that occurs. It is when a message comes from the Senate and a motion to address that message, either in the negative or in the affirmative, is made by the government. We, the opposition, are not told of that position or that motion until the minister has finished speaking on the message. That is totally unacceptable.

There is nothing unacceptable about a motion being put to the House and notice be given on the Order

Paper. There is nothing in the books, as far as I know, that forces the opposition to give notice to the government before the Order Paper is printed.

As a matter of fact, we could do what the government does with us on the question of Messages from the Senate. We could say to the government: "Wait until the Order Paper is printed before you find out what happens".

I will tell the government more than that. We have thought of putting 15 motions on the Order Paper, so the government can keep 15 ministers in place the night before and then find out the next day which motion we are going to call. We could do that. But we are not doing it because we are trying to get co-operation from the government.

I am asking the government whip to plead with his House leader to change some of the dispositions in the Order Paper which make it impossible sometimes for us to get advance notice of motions and the government's intention to move on certain things. I think that is very important.

I do not think he has a case today. The government was given notice yesterday at a quarter to six—

**Mr. Hawkes:** No, we were not.

**Mr. Angus:** A quarter to seven.

**Mr. Gauthier:** A quarter to seven, I am sorry.

If you got it this morning, it is still in order; it is not a point of order. I am told you got it at 6.45. I will let the NDP talk to that point.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps I could hear the hon. member for Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing, and then I will come back to the hon. member for Calgary West.

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, in the last while, the government has been in the habit of making untenable arguments. I think this is just one more example—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not interested in debate. We have a difficult procedural matter which I want addressed, and I want it addressed very exactly and succinctly. I know the hon. member will help the Chair.

**Mr. Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, all the appropriate notices have been given. Indeed, as has been mentioned, the parliamentary secretary to the government House leader, yesterday was