

Privilege—Mr. Rae

Leader of the Opposition, that ministers carry out these duties and have the electorate understand that all benefits, all good laws and all good policies do not necessarily originate in provincial governments. The federal government is also the government of all Canadians. It is the job—the duty—of ministers, as I hope it would be of Members of Parliament from all parties, to insist on the importance of the federal government and of the national Parliament as being the government and Parliament of all Canadians rather than, as seems to be the increasing tendency, to believe that Ottawa is only some remote capital dealing with esoteric things and peace and war, whereas all the policies which have to do with everyday living and benefits of citizens—

Mr. Keeper: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Trudeau: I have almost finished my remarks, Madam Speaker. The hon. member has a point of order and I will gladly yield to him if he will just permit me to finish.

Mr. Keeper: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Trudeau: That is the point I want to make, Madam Speaker. The NDP cannot wait to hear itself, so let us hear them.

Mr. Keeper: Madam Speaker, there was no discourtesy meant. The reason I rise on a point of order is to inquire whether or not the Prime Minister would be willing to entertain a question with regard to this matter?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, yes, I would. Perhaps it would have been more appropriate for the hon. member to wait. I insisted that I had almost finished my argument, but I will entertain his question.

Mr. Keeper: Madam Speaker, I had hoped that the Prime Minister would clarify this matter with respect to responsibilities, whether the responsibilities were for ridings or for regions.

I also have two other questions. One was whether or not these ministers would be made known, and the second was whether or not the ministers appointed with duties for regions, as the Prime Minister now says, will be effective. The reason I raise those questions is because I know that in my riding there is the impending closure of a postal station which serves the people of that riding.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Keeper: I hear laughter from some hon. members opposite. This is a sensitive matter. It is a matter of bringing the voice of the people to the cabinet table. Will the Prime Minister not acknowledge that he then has the responsibility to appoint ministers who are effective and who will bring the concerns of the people from the neighbourhoods to the cabinet table?

Madam Speaker: I will allow the Right Hon. Prime Minister to answer, if he wishes.

Mr. Trudeau: The member asks that I make these members' names and ministers' names known. I indicated earlier that if I had the authority of the House I would table the list, Madam Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Trudeau: With respect to the hon. member's second question, which has to do with the matter regarding the Post Office—

Mr. Nielsen: Is the Prime Minister tabling the document?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, I will, incessantly.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Trudeau: That is perfectly good English. Members opposite may not know it, but they can look it up in their dictionaries.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: As a responsible member, he knows that he does have to raise questions like that in the House of Commons, but then he will want to raise it with the proper departmental minister, which will be the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet), who happens to represent a riding in Montreal.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Trudeau: If the hon. member wants to make sure that his requests are also handled around the cabinet table by a minister who is from the area, then he will refer to this list and he will read, for example, "Manitoba—Hon. Lloyd Axworthy". If he is interested in getting a solution or redress for his riding, he will address himself to the executive branch of government, as I am sure he has done on other occasions. It will be helpful for him to know that apart from the departmental minister, he might be able to get assistance from the regional minister. I am happy to table this list in order to assist members of this House do their job when it comes to dealing with the executive.

• (1620)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent of the House to table the document?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, on that point of order, in view of the interest in it, should it not only be tabled but made an appendix to *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Does the House agree to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)?