

S.O. 21

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for York South-Weston.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, there is precedent to hear a question of privilege.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Appolloni: Thank you for defending my—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Why do Members act like the end of the world has happened? We will resume the question of privilege that we were discussing before, as we have in all other cases. What we are doing now is no different from what we have done before.

Mr. Nielsen: It is! There is precedent, if you will hear submissions, on a question of privilege which was heard before Question Period.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for York South-Weston.

Mr. Nielsen: That precedent existed in the case of Mr. Speaker Jerome, when he considered a question raised by the Hon. Member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Appolloni: Madam Speaker, thank you as I said, for defending my privilege which I shall now exercise.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cousineau: Nielsen democracy.

Madam Speaker: I am sure Members want this to take place in as much order as possible.

Mr. Clark: According to the rules.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Members must agree that the practice we have followed up until now is the one I am practising today.

Mr. Nielsen: That is not so. Hear our arguments.

Mr. Lewis: The House started at two o'clock before; today it started at eleven o'clock.

Madam Speaker: Well, let us put it this way: Members will have ample time to raise that after Question Period.

Mr. Nielsen: We want it heard now.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: The Speaker now determines that there is no reason whatsoever to vary from what has been done up until now. If Hon. Members want to submit arguments, so that we may change that practice, the Speaker is in the hands of the

House. But for the present time I must hear the Hon. Member for York South-Weston.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, surely you are going to hear submissions on a question of privilege which has been heard before Question Period? What you are doing is cutting us off from making any submissions whatsoever.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for York South-Weston.

Mr. Nielsen: Surely, Madam Speaker, you cannot come to a ruling without hearing us out.

● (1410)

Mrs. Appolloni: The brutal, barbaric bombing of the American embassy in Beirut has provoked reactions of horror and revulsion on the part of the international community in general, and particularly in those countries which have committed peacekeeping troops to Lebanon in an effort to restore peace and stability to that unhappy country. Acts of violence such as the one witnessed yesterday cannot but undermine all initiatives aimed at finding a just and equitable solution of the complex problems of the Middle East. Furthermore, they place in great jeopardy the vital need of the Lebanese people to live in peace and harmony in their own independent and unoccupied state.

I believe that it is imperative for the international community to voice, in the firmest possible terms, its total repugnance for any and all acts of wanton human destruction by whomsoever perpetrated, and that it pursue, with increasing vigour, dedication, urgency and commitment, all diplomatic pressures with a view to achieving equitable and lasting peace in the Middle East.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRECEDENCE OF QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, I would like to use this brief period, and I have never used one of these before, to protest, as strongly as I can, what I believe to be some unwarranted interference in the normal procedures of the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawrence: Never before have we faced such a situation under these new rules where the House started sitting at eleven o'clock in the morning. We reached a question of privilege, as we should, because the rules indicate that the matter of privilege should be started immediately and carried on. Certainly priority must be given to any question of privilege when it arises in this House, priority over everything, even over, I would suggest, some unwarranted activity from the Chair in respect to a matter such as this.