

Supply

to allow me to have my opportunity to speak. That is why we have trained seals like the Member from Newfoundland getting up to ask another Member from Newfoundland a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please.

Mr. Blaikie: I had the floor, Mr. Speaker; I had the floor.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I have no difficulty—

Mr. Blaikie: Nobody else was standing, Mr. Speaker, and I rose to debate; then we had this idiot getting up here and asking—

Some Hon. Members: Right on.

Mr. Blaikie: It is an absolutely disgusting show of one Liberal asking another a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I think the best contribution I could make to the House at the moment—

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. The best contribution I could make at the moment is to attempt to put aside what are remarks being made across the floor and are not officially coming to the Chair. I want to explain something to Hon. Members. There is no question but that the Chair is obligated under the Standing Orders to recognize any Member who rises on questions, answers and debate during the ten-minute period, regardless whether that Member comes from the same Party as the previous member.

Mr. Blaikie: And no one did.

• (1740)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I have applied that rule since January 1 and unless I receive instructions otherwise from the House of Commons, I shall continue to apply them.

The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) was recognized by the Chair as he was beginning to stand up. I think I was reasonable when I suggested that I saw another Member at that very moment rising during the ten-minute question period. I understand the difficulty of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill and I understand the difficulty of any other Member who may feel time is going by and they are being denied the opportunity to speak. That is a political issue. As a procedural issue, I will continue to recognize any Hon. Member who rises on questions, answers and comments during the ten-minute period. May I recognize the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill in that regard?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I will not be long because I want to hear the Hon. Member opposite. I

want to say that when the Hon. Member exploded with the little bit of poison that spurted across the way—

Mr. Lewis: I do not blame him.

Mr. Tobin: —I was rising to leave the House.

Mr. Blenkarn: Well, why don't you leave?

Mr. Tobin: I want to say to the Hon. Member that it is obvious by his explosion—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. That is precisely—

Mr. Tobin: —that he has the same respect for the rules—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I would like the Hon. Member to sit down. That is precisely what I do not want to hear as a point of order. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill.

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, if there is no one rising on a question, may I speak to the debate? In my view, this is what I could have done some time ago.

The Liberals have made a point this afternoon, I think, of missing the thrust of the motion. They presented us with two very different Catch 22s. If there is a general motion, then they say there is something terrible behind it. If it is a specific motion, it would be muckraking. The second Catch 22, Mr. Speaker, is that Liberals cannot accept the motion because it is a motion of non-confidence. On the other hand, there is no other way that we could bring it before the House except in this form. Now that it is in the House in this form and we ask the unanimous consent for it not to be regarded in the form they object to, they refuse unanimous consent. Therefore, we have a couple of convenient Catch 22s operating in favour of the Government, which, as far as I am concerned, pushes us back upon the larger question of confidence. This is the question I was hoping to speak to this afternoon but which cannot be dealt with in the short time frame. One of the reasons it cannot be dealt with, so I will not even try at this point, is the fact that my time has been used up by a Member of the Liberal Party asking another Member of the Liberal Party a question—which I quite admit is within the rules of the House of Commons and is within the rules as set up in the experiment, but I contend the quality of the question was such that it constituted an abuse of the rules because it was quite clear they were simply trying to use up time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill, as I am, is a member of a committee which recommended to this House that we ought to have 20 minute speeches followed by a ten-minute intervention from various