

However, I must say this is certainly not a question of privilege.

[English]

The hon. member for New Westminster—Burnaby, on her earlier question of privilege. I may have ended her comments prematurely. I will hear her now.

My point is that I am having difficulty seeing how at this stage in the committee's activities I have any lawful power to interfere.

HEALTH AND WELFARE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SENIORS AND STATUS OF WOMEN

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, the point that I want to make is that there was external interference by the office of the chief government Whip, outside the committee, in the proceedings. The proceedings were interrupted to change membership, and substitution forms which were required were withheld by the Whip's assistant. The rights of the committee were breached when a vote which was properly held was improperly rescinded and the decisions of that committee were overturned.

With your consent, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give an outline of what happened. A vote was taken at the committee. The chair had ruled that the people there had the right to vote.

The assistant to the chief government Whip withheld the papers and as a result of that the vote was overturned.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty I am in is that the hon. member must exhaust her remedies in front of the committee. At this point it would be improper, because I do not have the lawful authority, to interfere. The hon. member may want to pursue this in another way. The immediate way is to take it up with her colleagues in the committee.

I understand the hon. member's feelings on this matter and she may very well have a complaint. However, I have to say that I regret I am not in a position, certainly at the moment, to intervene.

There is a number of members rising on points of order. The Chair may need some help in order to get through this expeditiously.

If the hon. member, for example, for Annapolis Valley—Hants has a point of order arising solely out of Question Period I will hear him. That applies to other

hon. members. If they are points of order that do not arise solely out of Question Period, as we are under an order to get on with the vote and then we have Routine Proceedings, I would prefer to take the points of order later.

Certainly the hon. members who are rising, if not heard now, will be heard a little later on. Perhaps if I give that assurance we can get on with the vote.

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POINT OF ORDER

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, my point of order does arise out of Question Period. It is very short, it is succinct, but it may be substantive. I will be very brief. As we perhaps break for a summer recess I am just trying to determine what the rules and regulations are. I would like to know if there is any place in the Question Period for a bona fide supplementary yelled out fairly audibly.

That leads me to my second point, which I do not really want to press because I do not want to embarrass the Chair; I have the highest respect for the Chair. Perhaps it is time we admitted that there is a list if there is, and I would not want to say there is because it is an insult to the independence of the Chair to have a list. The Mother of Parliaments in England and the Parliament in Baghdad never had lists because that would be an insult to the Chair. If there is a list, I want to know if that is the sole criteria for members, and especially independent members who now do not come within a government situation, to be recognized. Then we can save a lot of physical energy that we spend in getting up and down like a yo-yo and not being recognized. Those are my two questions.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I can help the hon. member. First of all, I am not revealing a great secret when I say that of course there is a list. The hon. member has often been on that list. Your Speaker is not necessarily bound by the list, although I always try to co-operate as much as I can. I could even tell the House how we got to the list. The hon. member knows very well how we got to the list. It was through great discipline in keeping just one member of the party up in opposition so there was only one person the Speaker could go to. There is no secret about a list, and the hon. member knows as much about lists as any member in the House.