

Point of Order—Mr. Jourdenais

When you are considering this matter, you may also consider the fact that the documents in question, certainly in one case, are not state documents or Government dispatches. These are documents that were drawn up by way of reports and if we are going to refer back to what transpired in Question Period, as the Opposition has, I think it is quite clear that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has pointed out on a number of occasions that he is now the respondent in legal proceedings taken out by Star-Kist, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The purpose of those legal proceedings is to prevent him from making public, under access to information legislation and laws, the very documents that are being asked to be tabled.

The Minister is quite clear in his stance on this issue. He is in a position of being under a legal obligation to have this matter dealt with by the courts prior to making any decision with respect to releasing them or making them public.

In any event, apart from everything else, there was no quotation or citation from that document at all, and I think you are quite right that when members of the Opposition ask Ministers if they have documents and they acknowledge having documents, that in itself is certainly not a basis upon which they must lay those documents on the Table.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I recognized the Hon. President of the Privy Council subsequent to my remarks because I did not realize he wanted to make a procedural comment. However, if this continues much longer, I will not reserve my decision.

Mr. Deans: I have one brief point.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain rising on a new point of order?

Mr. Deans: Yes. I am in fact rising on a new point of order, which Hon. Members will understand when they hear it. The information that has come forward forces me to rise on a new point of order. If, by virtue of my asking for the tabling of the documents the Minister is placed in a position that makes it impossible for him to abide by the law, I would simply ask that we not require him to table those documents.

● (1210)

Mr. Speaker: No, I am sorry. These are strictly procedural matters. I have heard the points of order. I am not at all sure what the point of order is of the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans), but I will be glad to reserve on it.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I think the point has been well-aired.

[Translation]

ERROR IN IDENTIFICATION OF MEMBER BY COLLEAGUE

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order different from the one we have been discussing for the last 15 minutes.

Yesterday, as reported the fourth paragraph on page 6772 of *Hansard*, the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte Marie (Mr. Malépart) said that I had asked a question to the Prime Minister. He referred to the Hon. Member for La Prairie. I rose on a point of order, but I was not recognized. I would like to point out that a correction should be made. The question referred to was not asked by the Hon. Member for La Prairie. I cannot tell you what Member asked it, but I was not the one. I would like the appropriate correction to be made.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member referred to another Member who, in his opinion, caused an error in *Hansard*.

Mr. Lapierre: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) on the same point of order.

Mr. Lapierre: There was indeed a mistake made yesterday, Mr. Speaker, as my colleague wanted to quote a comment by the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau). This matter can probably be settled without anyone getting all upset.

Mr. Speaker: Am I to understand that the Hon. Member for La Prairie (Mr. Jourdenais) and the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) are now saying that the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) wishes to make a correction to *Hansard*?

Mr. Jourdenais: Mr. Speaker, he is not the one who is asking. I request that this be corrected because the question referred to was not asked by myself.

Mr. Speaker: It is impossible for an Hon. Member to request a correction except for something that he has said himself. Otherwise, if a mistake is made, it is a debating error, an error of fact. However, in this case, I shall recommend to the Liberal party whip that he suggest to the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) a correction to *Hansard*.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

DISASTERS

EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I think we should extend to the people and the Government of Mexico our sincere sympathy after this terrible disaster.