

Point of Order—Mr. Siddon

order in the House since 1969 when these new rules were imposed through closure. There have been continuous and ongoing discussions. Speaker after Speaker in his rulings, including yourself, Madam Speaker, has indicated that it is wrong and inappropriate to use Appropriations Bills to legislate.

The defence mechanism that has been available to protect Parliament in this regard has been in the form of the labours of some Members of Parliament, including myself, who have read through this enormous document Vote by Vote by Vote in an attempt to establish whether there is, in fact, an effort to sneak through legislation. We have been doing this for years.

Mr. Smith: State your point of order.

Mr. Andre: My point of order is very simple. I will try to make it sufficiently simple for the Member to understand, which is difficult. At some point we have to establish some mechanism whereby this House can have better protection from that kind of abuse.

Madam Speaker: Order. I am being very patient with the Hon. Member. He seems to be impatient with me. I must remind him that he is now debating a question which might be legitimate, but there is nothing before the House that allows him to discuss that particular matter just now.

The Estimates have been passed by both Houses. If the Hon. Member had a complaint concerning this particular matter, he should have debated it at that time. The matter he is raising is not a point of order. I cannot allow the Member to continue to debate that matter. I am afraid that I cannot hear him any longer.

Mr. Andre: Madam Speaker, this item was raised precisely because this morning the research staff associated with the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, after going through voluminous Orders in Council, discovered this point. I raise this matter today for that reason.

Madam Speaker: That is fine. If the Hon. Member has just discovered something that he wishes to debate, he can try to debate it on other occasions. However, this has nothing to do with the Standing Orders, and therefore it is not a point of order. The Hon. Member may not continue to discuss it. If he has discovered that issue this morning, he may debate it and express his concern but not at this particular time.

Mr. Andre: Madam Speaker, I have been searching for a number of years for some mechanism whereby this institution can, in fact, have some ability to protect its rights. As you well know, this particular issue has been raised at the appropriate times, many times, yet there continues to be—

An Hon. Member: What is your point of order?

Mr. Andre: The point of order is very simple. We have finally returned the Standing Committee on Procedures and Organizations to active use. If you share the view of others, which I hope you do, Madam Speaker, that it is, in fact, beholden upon this institution to show its mettle, if you will,

from time to time and to prevent this from happening, I humbly request that the Chair suggest that this subject be referred to the Committee on Procedure and Organization so that mechanisms can be put into place which will prevent this kind of abuse in the future. I would then not have to rise on points of order four times a year, every time the Government brings forward its Estimates.

Madam Speaker: I know that the Hon. Member has been preoccupied by this very matter and has raised it at appropriate times in the House. The Hon. Member will remember that I have heard him for quite some length. He has been quite successful in obtaining some kind of redress for that particular situation. I would urge him to continue to proceed from one success to another with regard to this particular matter. However, he cannot do it now and I think he knows that. I will recognize another Member.

MR. SIDDON—CALL FOR STATEMENT FROM MINISTER ON
TAXATION OF BENEFITS OF NORTHERN RESIDENTS

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of order on a matter relating to an announcement made outside of the House by the Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) on December 2, 1982, in collaboration with the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Bussières), the Minister of State for Mines (Mrs. Erola) and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro). This announcement and press release refer to a promise made by the Minister of Finance in the House of Commons on October 27 when he gave his economic statement at which time, quoting from the press release, he said, "The Minister had promised full details of his plan to the House of Commons". This important initiative which will lead to the taxation of the benefits of northern employees—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. What is the Hon. Member's point of order? He must know that statements made outside of the House do not constitute the basis for points of order. That goes without saying. Matters happening outside of the House are not covered by the Standing Orders. I do not see how the Hon. Member can rise on a point of order concerning this particular case.

Mr. Siddon: Madam Speaker, reading from the Minister's own press release, I quote the relevant section which indicates that the Minister had promised full details of the plan in the House of Commons. Since the implications of this announcement are so devastating for Canada's mining industry, I think it is important that the Minister should come before the House of Commons to make such a statement and then grant opposition Members an opportunity to question him and seek further clarification of such an announcement. As is set out in his press release, he promised to do that. I am trying to make a point that the Minister should come before the House.

Madam Speaker: That may be a legitimate complaint but it certainly is not a point of order.