

Taxation

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATUTE LAW RELATING
TO CERTAIN TAXES AND TO PROVIDE OTHER
AUTHORITY FOR THE RAISING OF FUNDS**

MEASURE TO AMEND

On the Order: Government bills (Commons):

Resuming debate on the motion of the Minister of State (Finance) for the second reading and reference to a Committee of the Whole of Bill C-93, an act to amend the statute law relating to certain taxes and to provide other authority for the raising of funds.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I am having difficulty speaking over the din on the other side. If I did not get any seats in Saskatchewan, I would be worried, too.

Mr. Clark: Or British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I have a question with respect to my status in rising at this time, and it is a matter I want to have cleared up. You will recall that on March 31, 1982, when we had a few moments while waiting for the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, I rose in the course of the debate on a grievance—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I am speaking on a point of order. After some insults, taunts and noises from the other side, which is not unusual, you indicated that I had the floor and could proceed with respect to that grievance. Somehow, somewhere in the middle of the matter, the Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith) rose in his place and was recognized for some purpose or other. He then, without his minister anywhere in the House, attempted, I think surreptitiously, to bring on a government order to intervene and interrupt me on the floor during the course of that grievance. Following that I was asked whether I was speaking to this matter and I answered yes. At that time my feeling was I was speaking to the grievance on which I had the floor and on which I had been interrupted. The debate then went on and on and on. I have to say to you, Madam Speaker, that in the course of that debate and through all of the interruptions which finally ended with the announcement that the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was here, it was and still is my understanding that, notwithstanding the intervention by the government in an attempt to cut off debate, I was still speaking on that grievance. I was not, as you will note on page 16030 of *Hansard* and the following pages, doing anything else but carrying on with the matter which I first raised in order to fill that hiatus in time between the end of the vote and the arrival of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. We knew that was happening because the tables had been moved and it was in fact general knowledge.

That is the position, Madam Speaker, that I left that night, that my grievance ended when we had to take the call of the hon. Deputy to the Governor General. It ended then but it carried on all through that period of time. I would hope that my understanding would be upheld by the Chair in any ruling,

and I think before we enter into the debate I would like to have that matter cleared up by the Chair.

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, it surprises me that the hon. member does not know on what he was speaking.

Mr. Blenkarn: Nonsense! You know better than that.

Mr. Pinard: It is clear from the record that the hon. member should know he was speaking on Bill C-93.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): It was not even clear to the government.

Mr. Pinard: On page 16030 of *Hansard*, after a point of order was raised by my parliamentary secretary, you asked for order. You said:

Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith) has asked me to call the following order:

Then the Order was called as follows:

On the Order: Government bills (Commons):

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That is in the record. Then you say, Madam Speaker:

Is the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) seeking the floor to speak on this matter?

You were referring to Bill C-93, Madam Speaker. The hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) said:

Yes, Madam Speaker.

Then some hon. members said:

Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pinard: And then the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) said:

It is very interesting that the government should attempt to cut off debate on the economy—

● (2100)

Madam Speaker, to remind the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton, as he has already said himself, he was speaking on the economy. He was speaking on Bill C-93 which had just been called, and you had given him the floor to speak in the debate. Therefore, I would like to reassure the hon. member that he was speaking on Bill C-93, and we are very anxious to hear from him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pinard: If he has any doubt about what he was debating, we are willing to give him consent that what he was saying be considered as being said on Bill C-93.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, the hon. member is quite right. I was speaking about the economy.

Mr. Nielsen: That is the subject of the grievance.