

the action or the wrongdoing. When we look at consequences in this Chamber of what might happen if somebody acts inappropriately in terms of not obeying or respecting the Chair or in terms of not respecting other members of Parliament, as we have talked about at great length in the last few months.

First, the consequences must fit the seriousness of the wrongdoing.

Second, I think every one of us in this Chamber has had dealings with other people in terms of work place or family or in a school setting, and the consequences must be administered as soon after the wrongdoing as possible. That is where somebody will be able to feel the most impact of those consequences. I believe that none of us would deny that. As soon as a consequence can be administered is the most important time and certainly has the most important effect.

In terms of recent behaviour we have seen in the House, we are looking at a number of weeks already. We saw most recently an event that happened last night. That certainly is first and foremost on our minds this morning. Several weeks have gone by since we have seen other dreadful things happen in this House.

I am calling on you, Mr. Speaker, to act as quickly as possible to administer consequences so that there will be some real and powerful effect.

In terms of this decision you are going to be called upon to make very shortly, I recommend to the House and also to you, Mr. Speaker, for whom I have such a great deal of respect, that the seriousness of this and the consequence could very seriously be watered down if a certain amount of time is allowed to go by.

I would like to say to the hon. member for Parkdale—High Park that it is important that we all support this motion and get on with the business of this House.

I will close by saying that I have had several calls in my constituency office and my Ottawa office within the last number of weeks and months. People in my riding are saying: "I forbid my children to watch the Parliamentary channel". I am sure we have all heard that. To me it seems a very unnerving and frightening experience for those of us here who are supposed to be representing the highest institution in the land.

Privilege

Mr. Speaker: It would seem that the House would wish that I recognize the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I did arrive right away and as I suggested to you earlier, I would like to stand up as soon as possible on a matter of privilege to deal with this matter.

You did recognize various other members and on reflection, I very much appreciate that. I listened very closely to all members of the House whom I respect a great deal, and I think they know that.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I do unequivocally apologize for the events last night. I expressly apologize to the Sergeant-at-Arms and other members of the House and to the Chair. I did not intend to show contempt for the House or for the Speaker. I have nothing but admiration and the deepest feelings for the House, which I have served for 12 years. I am now serving on a number of committees of the House on a number of issues, including all the issues that are coming up today in the House and next week.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an excuse, but I do want to say that I was, I suppose, angry last night because I felt that I could not vote on this seniors bill. The seniors issue concerns me very deeply. I felt at the time, for some reason that I do not understand, but I guess it will be explained, that we had a short bell and I rushed over here fresh from a meeting on the Young Offenders Act, just having arrived from Vancouver. I rushed over here to try and vote. When I got here there was no vote. I was not alone. There were a number of other members.

I tried to explain my position and get it on the record. I felt that I was cut off. I also felt that other members were cut off. There were a number of members, including the member for Skeena, the member for Fraser Valley East and other members, trying to get up to explain why they did not vote on an important issue and to clarify the matter.

I thought the Speaker did not hear me or understand me. I was going down to try and alert him to that. That is no excuse, but I want the members to know because I value all those members who spoke very deeply. I know them. I want them to know what was going on in my mind.