

Point of Order—Mr. Blaikie

Mr. Keeper: Point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Regina West has been recognized.

Mr. Keeper: A point of privilege.

Mr. Dick: Privilege is first.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I submit that the Chair is perfectly in order to rule Members out of order when they are trying to bootleg a question on a different subject matter. I submit that it is clear that the precedents and practices of this House, and I have been through three Speakers here over 16 consecutive years—

Mr. Blaikie: And you will be through a few more.

Mr. Keeper: You will be through another one, too.

Mr. Benjamin: The established precedent has always been that an Hon. Member may direct supplementary questions to another cabinet Minister on the same subject matter. I submit that it was perfectly clear today that the question submitted by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper) was on the same subject matter.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will realize, since he has put in 16 years—and the present occupant of the chair has put in just a little more than that—that he is reflecting on a decision of the Chair, and he cannot do so.

It appears that there is no fundamental difference of opinion. I have tried to indicate the general guidelines I will attempt to observe. I have also said to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James that I will review *Hansard* and the subject matter. If the Chair has done him an injustice, the Chair will make note of it. But the Hon. Member will at least, I am sure, allow the Chair an opportunity to reflect, as he may himself.

Mr. Keeper: On a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James says, "privilege". Privilege is a very special matter. If he wishes to argue privilege, will he argue his point of privilege?

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, I could just as well argue a point of order if you would allow me to be heard. That is the basis of my point of privilege. You have ruled with regard to the admissibility of my supplementary question without even hearing what I have to say. I consider that to be a derogation of my privileges as a Member of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member should realize that he is not establishing a case of privilege. The admission of a supplementary question is within the discretion of the Chair. The Chair made a decision not to allow a supplementary. There is no appeal from that, and it is not a matter of privilege.

The Hon. Member for Athabasca.

MR. SHIELDS—VISITORS BARRED ENTRY TO MEMBERS' GALLERY

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, mine is a different point of order. The Treaty Six Alliance members of the Coalition of First Nations are in Ottawa this week. In fact, they are guests of mine in the Gallery today. They were stopped at the front door and not allowed to proceed to the Gallery area even though each had in his possession a guest pass signed by myself. I am wondering if there has been some change in the rules, or could the Speaker look into this situation for me?

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will certainly give an undertaking to the Hon. Member that the situation will be investigated.

Mr. Blaikie: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill on a point of order.

MR. BLAIKIE—PRESS CONFERENCE OF MR. BLAIS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my point of order relates to the fact that, as I understand, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Blais) is at this moment having a press conference concerning the incident which occurred in the Quebec Legislature yesterday. I would like to submit that if the Minister had something to say about this very important issue, particularly something which affects Parliament and its security, he ought to have had the decency and procedural integrity to make that statement in the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member knows he does not have a point of order. We have not yet proceeded to Statements by Ministers, which would be an appropriate time for a Minister to make a statement.

Mr. Blaikie: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member did not establish a point of order. Does he have another matter?

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to make a statement in the House in the time allocated for Statements by Ministers when you are down in Room 130-S talking to the press, so let's not kid around.

Mr. Speaker: I suggest the expression "not kidding around" applies two ways. The Hon. Member for Calgary West.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I have been given some special responsibilities by my Party to hold a particular Minister accountable. That Minister is responsible—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member is not making a point of order.

Mr. Dick: A point of order.