

Time Allocation

courtesies are being extended here, and I would ask that all Hon. Members address each other with the courtesies of which we are all capable. The Hon. Member for Cape Breton—East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall) may want to say something that I hope would be helpful.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I say to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) that I wish to withdraw from the record the reference I made earlier. This has not been a very easy day for Members of Parliament on this side of the House in view of what has transpired, but I withdraw that remark.

Mr. Speaker: I would hope that Hon. Members would give the appropriate appreciation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rossi: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that my honourable colleague for Cape Breton has seen fit to make a clarification with apologies, and I hope the Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) can do the same when he refers to gentlemen without hair, because I have no hair and boast of no less honesty than the Hon. Member for Duvernay opposite.

All this to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that even though I do not have the experience of the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley—Hants (Mr. Nowlan), who has been here for 21 years, I have been here for eight years. Rather than repeating everything that has been said concerning the rules and so forth, I would simply like to say one thing, and this is that I am very much disappointed with what transpired today, because since you have been in office, Mr. Speaker, I have seen with what competence, skill and impartiality you have led the proceedings here. For that you deserve commendation, Mr. Speaker.

When I say I was disappointed, Mr. Speaker, it is because I have witnessed today something that is most improper, for which reason I allowed myself to shout at my good friend, and I do say my good friend the Deputy Minister, and I say very good friend, because I never saw the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) act in that way, and I myself got carried away.

All this to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the farce has been carried so far, and correct me if I am wrong, that the Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) went so far as to stand up for the opposition Member, claiming he came into the House on time and he was on time. I have been here for eight years, Mr. Speaker, and never did I see a government Member see an Opposition Member come into the House and suggest everything was alright, he was entitled to vote. As far as I can remember, I have never seen that.

So there was something to defend. This seemed to be pure and simple scheming, and never did I see, since I have been here, anything so fine-tuned, anything so well prepared—in

some aspects of the Criminal Code, there is reference to complicity before and after the fact.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope that this kind of incident will never happen again. About the question of privilege, I feel personally that the New Democratic Party House Leader was on its feet long before the Minister, and so was the Whip of my Party. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you quite frankly that until today, you had managed to fascinate me by the way you had conducted the proceedings, your command of the French language and everything you have done. Today, however, I must quite honestly, objectively and sincerely admit that I am disappointed with the way the House Leader and Deputy Prime Minister has behaved—without accusing you of anything, Mr. Speaker, and you can believe me when I say that I admire enormously the way you operate—I am disappointed with what happened in the House.

I hope that in the future the Government will not use again these underhanded tricks, because that's what they are. They are the underhanded tricks of the Deputy Prime Minister, of the Minister and of most everybody; if the House had listened to the NDP House Leader and the Whip, I don't think that this incident would have happened and I am sorry it did, Mr. Speaker. I sincerely hope that it will never happen again.

● (1710)

[*English*]

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I want to add a few comments on this point of order. In the day-to-day deliberations in this place there is no question, as the Speaker is well aware, that the various Parties have their own agendas. The Government has an agenda, which is to move legislation through this place as expeditiously and responsibly as possible. We hope that included in that agenda is the belief that legislation ought to be given a fair and proper hearing both in committee and in this House. The Opposition has an agenda, which is to ensure that its views, and that of the people it represents, with respect to legislation are heard and, if possible, amendments made where necessary. That applies to both opposition Parties. Whatever the agenda of the Government and whatever the agenda of the Opposition at any given time, and notwithstanding our respective priorities, there is a much larger principle which concerns the proper operation of Parliament. Notwithstanding different points of view or different agendas, different aims and different objectives, Parliament can work and enjoy the goodwill of its members, and by extension the goodwill of the people of Canada, only when it operates according to a set of predictable and dependable rules. Those rules should, notwithstanding the nature of a given question or crisis which may confront Parliament, stand the test of time. No matter how important my agenda is, no matter how important the agenda of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) is, both of us must be subservient to the rules of this place. There was a feeling today in this House, and not only on one side, that the rules to which all of us must be subservient were expeditiously put aside in some manner.