

Government Orders

rules, they have a quiet conversation with the Chair to advise the Chair so it is in a position to make a ruling.

The opposition has a desire to stifle debate, to stifle democracy, to keep this chamber silent on the issue of the goods and services tax. They are antithetical to democracy. They do not want debate, but the official opposition does, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Chair has listened to quite a few points of order in the last half an hour, but I have also asked other members to keep it to a point of order and not to get into debate. I think the hon. member for Calgary West was getting well into debate at that time.

Mr. Benjamin: He was out of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The hon. member has not been given the floor.

Mr. Benjamin: Madam Speaker, when the Speaker of the House of Commons has a question of privilege under advisement, it is out of order to get up and speak on it, which he just did.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I think the hon. member for Kamloops had been seeking the floor.

Mr. Riis: I must apologize to my hon. friend, the Whip for the government. I thought he was actually launching off in debate. I was going to call for a rule of relevance, but if he is on a point of order, I guess I really have not much to say.

Mr. Angus: Madam Speaker, just on a quick point of order. As Whip of the NDP, I understand that some members are now gathering to smoke at the freight entrance of this building. The bells do not reach down there. I would ask Your Honour to investigate the provision of services to members who still insist in indulging in the bad habit of consuming the weed and to make sure at least they get the notice for any votes.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.