

importance of the question he is raising and his emphasis on that point, and considering the number of times it has been raised in the House, Hon. Members will understand that I intend to take this matter into consideration.

[English]

MR. SIMMONS—ALLEGED FAILURE BY CHAIR TO RECOGNIZE

**Mr. Roger Simmons (Burin-St. George's):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. I submit that today, during the first hour of proceedings, my privileges as a Member of this House were tampered with. I submit further that this is just the latest incident in a consistent pattern of such tampering with my privileges as a Member of this House. I want you to know, Madam Speaker, that today's incident is the straw that breaks the camel's back for me.

**An Hon. Member:** Let's have it.

**Mr. Simmons:** Allow me now to document briefly my matter of privilege, and I inform you, Madam Speaker, that should the Chair—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I would be delighted to hear the Hon. Member's plea for privilege, but at this point I do not know what it is all about and I did not get any notice of his question of privilege. If it has to do with the deliberations today, then I can hear him; but he must tell me in the first sentences what it is all about, otherwise I cannot follow the argumentation.

**Mr. Simmons:** Madam Speaker, I am not surprised; there was no argumentation. I had begun the sentence "Allow me now to document". I said in my opening statement that this question was based on something which happened during the first hour of proceedings. For that reason I understand no prior notice was required.

**Madam Speaker:** No prior notice was required, but the Hon. Member knows that in the first sentences he has to tell the Speaker what it is all about. I have been listening now to the Hon. Member for three minutes and I still do not know what his question of privilege is all about.

**Mr. Simmons:** As I was saying, Madam Speaker, please allow me to document it ever so briefly, and I inform the Chair—

**An Hon. Member:** What is the question?

**Madam Speaker:** I think the Hon. Member is playing with words. I do not want the Hon. Member to document the question now. I want the Hon. Member to state what the question of privilege is all about, and then he could document it.

**Mr. Simmons:** Madam Speaker, allow me to state the matter of privilege. My affirmation is that my privileges have been breached, and that affirmation arises from the failure of

*Privilege—Mr. Simmons*

Madam Speaker to allow me the floor during Standing Order 21 proceedings.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Simmons:** It is based on two related but distinct issues. The first the Chair may find debatable, but I invite the Chair to hear both. First—

**Madam Speaker:** Order. The fact that the Speaker did not recognize the Hon. Member surely does not constitute a question of privilege. It might be a point of order, and I would welcome the Hon. Member raising it. However, if he is raising it now under a point of order, I must tell him that I recognized most of the Members who rose today, namely the Hon. Member for Don Valley East (Mr. Smith) and two others. At any rate, there were three on this side, three on the other side, and two from the NDP. If Hon. Members had been in the House at eleven o'clock sharp, there would have been an extra one on both sides. But they were not, and at 11.15 I started the Question Period, as I am bound to do by the Standing Orders.

**Mr. Simmons:** Allow me, Madam Speaker, on a matter of privilege to state my matter of privilege—

**Mr. Nielsen:** No.

**Mr. Simmons:** First, I have said that the privilege is based on the failure of the Chair. It is not the failure itself of the Chair that constitutes the matter of privilege; it is based on that failure. Allow me very briefly to state the two issues which—

**Madam Speaker:** No, no. I have just ruled that that is not a question of privilege. I have ruled on a point of order in case the Hon. Member transforms this into a point of order. Furthermore, I must remind the Hon. Member that it is the privilege of the Speaker to recognize Members in the order—and I usually use that order—in which they rise. Now, I cannot always say; sometimes two or three rise at the same time. The Hon. Member was unlucky today. I hope that he is luckier another day. I will certainly, as I do in all cases, put his name on a list which I bring back into the House every day and I watch whether that Hon. Member is rising. If the Hon. Member is here on Monday, I am sure that I will be more than happy to recognize him.

**Mr. Simmons:** Madam Speaker, on a matter of privilege—

**Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's is rising on a matter of privilege?

**Mr. Simmons:** Madam Speaker, on a matter of privilege. I submit, with respect, that the Chair has not yet heard what my matter of privilege is. It is not the failure of the Chair to recognize me. I have said that very distinctly. I said that it was based on that failure, but that is not the matter of privilege. The matter of privilege is first—and I believe most important—that I rose in my place from the very beginning of the proceedings today, yet the Chair recognized other Members