

Point of Order

House that the Senate has passed Bill C-38, an Act to amend the Customs Tariff, without amendment.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Government House
Ottawa

April 3, 1985

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Bertha Wilson, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in her capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 3rd day of April, 1985, at 3.15 p.m., for the purpose of giving the Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière,
Administrative Secretary to the
Governor General.

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (1530)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate Chamber the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bill:

Bill C-38, an Act to amend the Customs Tariff—Chapter No. 12.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

PRACTICE RESPECTING TIMING OF ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am informed that it is very unusual, if not unheard of, to have a Royal Assent during an Opposition Day, especially at a time that would interrupt the opening speech of the Opposition on the motion in question. In fact, I am also informed that it is very unusual to schedule a Royal Assent in a way that would interrupt any business of the House. In the past it was generally scheduled so that it would happen right at

six o'clock in a way that the business of the House would not be interfered with.

While it may be technically correct to have the Royal Assent take place when it did just a few moments ago, I respectfully submit that it is contrary to the past practices and traditions of this House. In addition, it is a grave discourtesy to the Official Opposition, on this occasion, when it has a very important motion to present to the House.

I should add that I am informed that the Government House Leader is in a position to set the time for Royal Assent. I would say that he should be carrying out his duties in a more competent manner, especially in a way that recognizes the practices and traditions of the House when it comes to the importance of Opposition Days and the motions presented in them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. The Opposition House Leader has expressed a desire for the Government House Leader to carry out his duties, I think I can phrase it, "in a more competent manner", which implies some degree of incompetence. The Government House Leader is not present in the Chamber. I find that opportunity to attack the House Leader in his absence and in that fashion to be totally reprehensible.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the sentiments that I think in honour lie behind the comments of the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray). I think he will understand that the Speaker is put in a position by the rules of having to respond to the knock at the door. The Hon. Member may have a matter he wishes to raise with the reform committee. I can sense that he feels he has a grievance. I think he knows what he should do about that. He has taken the first opportunity to advise the House of his concern and I accept the reason he has chosen to do it at this time. I understand his concern.

Resuming debate.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 62—JOB CREATION

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Dingwall:

That this House condemns the Government for its failure to create the jobs required to substantially reduce the excessively high levels of unemployment, either through its general economic policies or through its recently announced energy agreement, the job creation potential of which has made the Ontario Deputy Minister of Energy skeptical to the point where he has said that, in signing it, the Government "gave away the store".