

Speaker's Ruling

Having tried to perform this balancing act in the present instance with very great attention and care, the Chair is persuaded to yield to the request of the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants and accordingly hereby direct that he be listed as an Independent Conservative in the weekly Appendix to *Debates*, in the Appendices to the bound volumes of *Debates* and *Journals*, and in any documents or circumstances consequential to those Appendices.

I recognize that this was not necessarily a particularly easy decision to make, but I hope that it meets, after the long discussion that took place, with the approval of the members of the House.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plamondon: Mr. Speaker, may I say I am extremely disappointed by the answer you gave to the very clear question put by the member for Shefford. In his question he had asked you to justify—

• (1520)

Mr. Speaker: There is a long-standing tradition in this House. As the hon. member seems to be doing, it is not in order to comment on a ruling made by the Chair. If the hon. member has a question I will certainly try to answer him here or even in my chambers. After this caveat, he may continue.

Mr. Plamondon: I will ask my question, Mr. Speaker. I simply wanted to refer to the beginning of the questions of the hon. member for Shefford when he said “—please, at least have the decency to justify—”. In the response you gave there was no justification for the fact that, for example, a group of Social Credit—

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I regret very much having to interrupt the hon. member. It is true that the hon. member for Shefford used very strong language. I took that at the time because, as I said in my judgment,

[*Translation*]

—my colleague the hon. member for Shefford made an impassioned speech.

[*English*]

If the hon. member will read carefully what I have just said, it is abundantly clear that the board made a decision. The board made that decision. All I can say on that is that it made that decision today. It might make another decision on another day, but it is not for the

Chair to give the reasons that the board may or may not be prepared to give. That is the situation. The application went to the board. The board has made the decision and for now, as I said,

[*Translation*]

—that is the situation of all members of the group.

Mr. Plamondon: Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me 30 seconds it would be enough to complete my remarks. I am not going to make a 15-minute speech. I am simply saying that on page 5 of your text it says “the rights and privileges of members are being abrogated”. Well this answer breaches my rights as member of a group, if I compare it with answers given to the Social Credit Party which had only six members in 1979.

Mr. Speaker: Please, I fully appreciate the point of the hon. member, but we are having an argument. At the conclusion of the argument my responsibility is to make a ruling. The House now has that ruling. Should the hon. member wish to pursue the matter he has every opportunity to rise in the House during the oral question period and direct a question to the representative of the Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. Lapierre: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order.

Mr. Lapierre: Just a point I would like to clear up, Mr. Speaker. Since you say in your ruling that there cannot be an exception this time, I would like to know an exception to what?

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: When I said that, what I meant and what I think is clear if one reads the text is that the board has made no ruling that would give any funding to one particular bloc outside the traditional parties. Clearly, if one looks carefully at my ruling, the board might do something else at another time.

If the hon. members wish to pursue with members of the board or through a question in the House to the representative of the board who is charged under our rules to answer for the board, then of course that is their privilege.

I think the Chair has exercised considerable patience in this matter. I would certainly ask the hon. members to read carefully the judgment, because I think they will find that the answers are there. When hon. members read it they should remember that the Chair by itself