

leader for reasons of his own, I will raise the question at another point.

● (2010)

Mr. Pinard: Referring to the consent given the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), in fact nothing was given to the Prime Minister. Under Standing Order 31(1)—

An hon. Member: Oh, yes, there was.

Mr. Pinard: Under Standing Order 31(1), the Prime Minister has a right to unlimited time. The only consent given at the time was to allow him to speak before six o'clock, and the private members' hour was postponed. It was not cancelled. Nothing was given to the Prime Minister.

An hon. Member: Don't worry about any other consent, ever!

Mr. Pinard: If the Prime Minister of Canada, according to the Standing Order, spoke for an unlimited period of time, he was allowed to. If he spoke two hours and 16 minutes, there was nothing wrong in that. The hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp), who was the mover of an amendment according to the same Standing Order, spoke one hour and 16 minutes, and he is not the Prime Minister of Canada. He is a Member of Parliament. He is in the House sometimes and goes abroad sometimes; but he is not the Prime Minister of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I hope the government House leader will reconsider what he said. Of course the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has unlimited time. The Prime Minister used what time was required. It was rather important to the Prime Minister on that evening that we offered him the hour allotted to private members; it was important to the Prime Minister that that happen, that that be done, and he thanked us for that courtesy. I do not think that this is the place for meanness.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): This can be a place for procedural arguments and all the rest of it, but I do not think it should be a place for meanness. As the Prime Minister occupies a special place in the House of Commons, so does the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) have a special place in the House of Commons. He is an officer of this House. I think it is important that courtesies be extended for the convenience of the Prime Minister, and it is also important that courtesies be extended for the Leader of the Opposition, or, indeed, for the leader of any party in this House of Commons. I believe this kind of courtesy ought to be extended.

I think it is important, as well—and obviously must be important to the government—that the debate be continued and be completed within the rules of the House of Commons. It is important to us that it be carried on within the rules. It seems to me, if we regard this place as a place of harmony

Point of Order—Mr. Clark

with great differences, it is inappropriate for the government House leader to say, with respect to the Leader of the Opposition, in any event, that the Leader of the Opposition ought not to be afforded certain courtesies.

I ask the hon. gentleman to notice that the bell was perhaps the shortest on record. It was about seven, eight or nine seconds. Madam Speaker did say she waited for a short period, and I would not doubt that. The Leader of the Opposition, following the custom which has developed in this House, when the bells began to ring, came downstairs to his place in the House. I would not want to describe the failure of that recognition which should be given to the Leader of the Opposition in the way it might be described outside of the House, but I think it is important to remember that while there are strong differences between us—

An hon. Member: Get up off your knees, Walter.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I am not on my knees, by any means. There are strong differences between them but I think it is quite appropriate, for whatever progress the government House leader wants to make with respect to this matter, that he reconsider, and give to the Leader of the Opposition the courtesy which I believe that position deserves. I frankly ask him for this.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: In view of the circumstances, Madam Speaker, I would say that the request of the Leader of the Official Opposition to the effect that we should not take into account the atmosphere in the House or the differences of opinion which can exist between the two sides of the House concerning matters under debate, as concerns his request; in view of his explanations, and if we consider the fact that he finds that the bell this evening rang for an exceptionally short time, I shall point out that we found for our part that the bell had rung for an exceptionally long time the day before yesterday. If we also consider that the government prefers the bells to ring more briefly to be able to get more work done and that the Progressive Conservative Party prefers to have the bells ring for a very long time to prevent Parliament from working; if we forget all that, if we put aside the fact that we have witnessed in the last few days a shameful filibuster on the part of the opposition, which is systematically preventing the Canadian Parliament from working, stopping this institution from meeting the aspirations of Canadians and preventing us from dealing with other matters which would be much more useful for the Canadian society; if we can forget this unacceptable and shameful attitude on the part of the opposition party at a time when we have many problems and when Parliament is expected to do much more than in the past, if we can forget all that, Madam Speaker, I would be willing to consider the request of the House leader of the official opposition, but on one little condition, which is quite normal in the circumstances following this long and unacceptable filibuster, namely, that he would allow me this evening to introduce my motion on time alloca-