

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

tary secretary to the Minister of Public Works will now be given the opportunity—

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege—

An hon. Member: Throw him out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, I have a right to be heard on the point of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: To what point of privilege does the hon. member for Halifax refer?

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege because I am entitled under the provisional standing order to seven minutes from the time I am given the floor.

An hon. Member: You have had seven minutes.

Mr. Regan: I have been given exactly five minutes, and not one second more. I need 45 seconds to complete what I wish to say. I do not need the two minutes to which I am entitled. I have only been given five minutes but I only require 45 seconds. I suggest that Mr. Speaker check with his timekeeper, because I am sure he will find that what I state is the case. The debate that was under way before the hour of adjournment continued until five minutes after ten, and then—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I can only suggest to the hon. member that the Chair is not infallible in the keeping of time. Perhaps the hon. member is infallible in this regard, but in any event a decision has been reached by the Chair. I suggest to the hon.

member that it is a rather childish suggestion that he should be given further time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I rule against that suggestion and there is no question of privilege.

I now recognize the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. G. Roy McWilliam (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I have only a few brief remarks to make. In the matter of payment of claims for trans-Canada highway contracts the federal Department of Public Works is tied in with the provincial departments of public works as this is a cost sharing program.

The procedure is that the province prepares a claim and the department's district engineer investigates the claim. If he is satisfied that the claim is in order—that it complies with the terms of the act and that the work has been completed in accordance with the standards set out in the regulations—the district engineer certifies the claim after an audit has been made, and the amounts specified have been spent by the province. The claim is then forwarded to Ottawa for a further audit and certification. If found in order, the claim is processed by the chief treasury officer for payment to the province.

The points raised in the remarks of the hon. member for Halifax will be brought to the attention of the Minister of Public Works, who is unavoidably absent from this chamber due to a previous appointment in respect of departmental business.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10:15 p.m.