

ing to the arrangements made, and which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) denied having any knowledge of, he alone would speak. He is not the head of state of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I simply ask that parliament be respected and that the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition (Mr. Clark), the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) and the Leader of the Social Credit Party (Mr. Fortin) should have the right to speak. No prime minister has the right, by virtue of his position, to endeavour to convince Canadian people that he, and he alone, has a monopoly over freedom within this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: By way of the point of order raised by the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), I should indicate that we are operating under rather extraordinary conditions. Inevitably whenever we go into extra hours we distort the customary habits of the members of the House. Instead of coming in and beginning the session at two o'clock with prayers, as we usually do and as the Standing Order requires, and then giving the Chair some guidance as to how long after that time we might begin the session, we convened this morning at eleven o'clock. We said prayers at the commencement of the session, which we would normally say at two o'clock. Therefore, when that happens and when we come into the Chamber at two o'clock, we simply sit and wait for a quorum, and I wait for some indication from representatives of the House as to the appropriate time to begin. That is not our usual practice, and therefore things can become distorted.

However, there is no discretion in the Chair to extend the time for motions pursuant to Standing Order 43. In fairness the House ought to be cautioned. The failure of members on both sides of the House to respond promptly to the two o'clock bell works to the prejudice of the use of that time prior to 2.15. One point raised by the right hon. member to which we ought to pay attention is that it would serve all purposes of the House better if we could all get here closer to two o'clock every afternoon.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBER FOR SIMCOE NORTH ON EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I realize Your Honour's concern, which is a proper concern, about the taking of time with regard to congratulations. As for birthdays, there are 264 members in this Chamber and most of us have a birthday every year; but when one of our number reaches the age of 80

Oral Questions

all of us would like to extend him our congratulations. According to the Parliamentary Guide, the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard) will be 80 on Saturday, and I believe the House would like to extend its congratulations to him.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I am overcome. I want to say it has been a great privilege and honour to sit in this House. It has been something I would not have missed for anything, because nature in its various moods is revealed here. It has taught me something about the physical aspect of medicine which I did not know before coming here, so I have had an education. It has indeed been a privilege to meet and sit with people like the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, an outstanding parliamentarian in his day, and the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), another outstanding parliamentarian.

I am grateful to the good Lord for my health, the position I am in today, the facilities and the faculties I have to carry on each year and extend myself a little. I hope to add to that wisdom over the years to come.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1510)

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, I must have my supplementary to say how sorry I am that I did not express my gratitude to my good friend, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), with whom I have sat here for many years, for bringing this to the attention of the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Knowing the respect with which this House holds the right hon. gentleman, and given the fact that it is not too often that he rises under Standing Order 43, and also the fact that I notice on a number of occasions the House has shown that it is master of its own destiny, and therefore, having given unanimous consent may circumvent the rules, I wonder whether the House would be disposed now to giving the necessary unanimous consent so that the right hon. gentleman, whom we all hold in the highest respect and who has without question lived among us in such a way that he will go down as one of Canada's leading statesmen, move the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander), I know, makes his request in good faith, but it puts the House in a very awkward position. At the time the right hon. gentleman was seeking the floor under Standing Order 43 several of his colleagues were seeking the floor, the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) and several others. That happens every day. Surely, if we are to begin now to consider the importance of the subject matter or the importance of the hon. member involved who seeks the floor on one occasion, we will be asked to do it again. Although the best of faith is shown by the hon. member for Hamilton West, I really cannot find a procedure by which we