

answered within 45 days. I am wondering if Your Honour would consider that.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Milliken) is quarrelling with the fact that the rule says that only four questions can be on the Order Paper at any one time and suggests that the Speaker should turn a blind eye to it. The Speaker cannot turn a blind eye to any rule because I am bound to interpret the rules as all other Members have asked me to do.

I made it very clear in what I said a few minutes ago that I cannot order the Government to produce those documents or the answers within 45 days, but I say to the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands that nor can I deliberately turn a blind eye to the rules as they are sent to me to enforce.

If the Hon. Member is not satisfied with that particular rule, there are various ways to enter into discussions with colleagues and to change the rule. If the rule is changed, then I of course will accept that and be bound by it. After all, the rules are here because generally speaking the majority of Members of Parliament from all Parties have agreed to them. These are the rules that are made by all of us in this place to conduct our proceedings, so these rules change from time to time.

The Hon. Member may have a suggestion for change. I would invite him to speak with some of his colleagues on both the government side and in the New Democratic Party so that perhaps a change could be made. Of course, if the change is made, then I will enforce it as I am bound to enforce the rules as they presently stand.

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POINT OF ORDER

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE TO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, CULTURE, CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURALISM

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, on another point of order, if I may. During the introduction of a Bill by the Hon. Minister for Multiculturalism, there was a suggestion made by the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) with respect to the citizenship and multiculturalism aspect of the present Committee on Communications, Culture, Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

Borrowing Authority

I just want to respond very briefly to say that during the months of January to March, there was discussion among the House *vis-à-vis* the number of committees and streamlining them in an effort to have them work more efficiently and save money. We had excellent discussion with the Opposition Parties.

We streamlined them. We went to our various caucuses and discussed it with our Members, and the final list of committees was unanimously agreed to by this House.

Since that time, there have been submissions made with respect to only one committee. The submissions have been to split off the Citizenship and Multiculturalism from Communications, Culture, Citizenship and Multiculturalism. I just want to indicate, since the Hon. Member did make the suggestion, that we are giving it serious consideration and we hope to be able to comment publicly in the very near future.

• (1130)

Mr. Speaker: I probably erred on the side of generosity in allowing the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) to make the point of order, however, it seemed to me a legitimate issue. I want to thank the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis) for responding.

I also want to say something which I should have said a few minutes ago and that is to the Hon. Member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper). The Chair does appreciate the very conciliatory way in which the Hon. Member responded to the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) on this difficult question of trying to provide answers within 45 days. I want the Hon. Member to know that the Chair does very much appreciate his courtesy.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1989-90

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Tuesday, May 16, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that Bill C-11, an Act to provide borrowing authority, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.