

Fisheries and Forestry

Mr. Fraser: It is not a speech, Mr. Speaker; it is a point of privilege.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is not a point of privilege if you are going to keep on talking the way you are right now. That is not privilege. Is the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) rising on a question or comment? He has exactly two minutes.

Mr. Brisco: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I listened with interest and appreciation to the concerns expressed by my colleague across the floor. I should like to put a question to him. There has been an examination of this matter by the standing committee. The debate today, by and large, on both sides of the House has been supportive of the concern which was brought before the House. We know that there are those Members on this side who understand and appreciate his concern and have addressed it. He is of the view that we are a Government with a Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who is not going to listen and not going to act on what was said, and with a Minister of Transport who will not act on what has been said today, as well as a Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development who will not act on what has been said today. Is that his view? If that is not his view, then I ask the Hon. Member why he is so exercised over the fact that the matter is not coming to a vote.

● (1750)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is a great comment, but I would say that comments and questions are now terminated.

Mr. Penner: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think that was a very worthy question and to be just left hanging in the air seems unfair. I would like unanimous consent to respond briefly.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Does the Hon. Member have unanimous consent to respond briefly?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Because it is myself that is being referred to, I want to make it clear that I indicated that the committee chairman and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans did not support—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. It is now debate.

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, this has been a very interesting afternoon. Up until an hour or so ago, I thought that we were having a level of debate in the House of Commons that I have not had the opportunity to enjoy on very many occasions. Beginning with the intervention of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) it rapidly deteriorated, and it has been deteriorating very quickly since that time.

Mr. Blaikie: Sorry I asked for action. I'm sorry it bothered you.

Mr. Gurbin: There are several major points. It is not a question of where Members' minds are at or what action they ask for. It is a question of honesty of action and whether or not they are consistent in their positions. That applies to Hon. Members on the other side as well as this side of the House. It flabbergasts me to sit here and listen to some of the interventions that can be made.

So many times I hear Members of the Official Opposition making comments to us that they would not appreciate from us and I hope we will never be guilty of perpetuating it the same way they did year after year after year.

Mr. Blaikie: You just have.

Mr. Riis: You have muzzled Parliament.

Mr. Gurbin: Here we go again with the NDP. If it were not for the mindless interventions of the NDP, such as the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill, we would not have had the last five years of Liberal Government that ended up with this and so many other problems with which we have had to deal. They do not know where their head is at. They do not have to take the responsibility. They continue, even this afternoon, to refuse to look for ways to accomplish things. Instead—

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Member who is speaking said that it was only the NDP that were against this matter coming to a vote. He should know that two Members of his own Party—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret that that is debate.

Mr. Gurbin: Mr. Speaker, I do not have a lot of time left.

Mr. Riis: That is your decision.

Mr. Gurbin: That is unfortunate. Something happened this afternoon and it is getting worse all the time. Somebody asked a while ago what somebody watching television would think. If I had been watching TV, I would have turned it off. At this point in time one of the interesting things—even the NDP might be able to understand this if they will be quiet for a minute and think about it—

Mr. Riis: Aren't you wonderful, aren't you superb?

Mr. Gurbin: If they would take the time to read the motion that is before the House and see what it says and what has been accomplished through the interventions of the chairman of our committee—

Mr. Riis: Why didn't you support him?

Mr. Gurbin: —and through the other people who have been discussing what the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans—