

asking the government to recognize that it is in danger of manipulating parliamentary time in such a way as to make a mockery of the budget debate.

Mr. Speaker: I have to tell the hon. member again that he may have an area which he wishes to work on, and to try to improve and to criticize as it stands. However, it has been a long standing practice in both respects that he has addressed himself to, both on budget evening and the right of the government to call the continuance of the budget debate as it wishes.

MR. REID (KENORA-RAINY RIVER)—LEVEL OF LIGHTING IN CHAMBER—RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege arises from my frustration during question period.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): And it goes further than that because of some particular problems which have developed over the last little while as a result of the changes we made in the House of Commons by bringing in additional lights. As a result of the lights coming in, I find it extremely difficult to spend too much time in the House of Commons. I get very bad headaches.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Why don't you leave?

An hon. Member: Your constituents will look after that.

Mr. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): I am thinking of asking the Chair to allow us to wear hats in the House as used to be the case when the House of Commons began. In any event, this has caused a great many difficulties for me personally.

Second, I want to raise the point that the rural constituency I have calls for me to spend a fair amount of time travelling. I know that there are difficulties in terms of allocating the time amongst members on this side and the other side for question period. Let me make it quite clear that I have no objection to the way which the parties use the first half of the question period to raise questions of importance to the parties. I think that is fair. I think it is also fair that the rest of the time should be left open to a free-for-all.

The dilemma we have is that those of us who stand in this corner seeking to be recognized by the Chair know that we cannot be recognized all the time. We recognize that Your Honour has said in the past that in fact you do keep a list and that you try to recognize everybody who rises *seriatim* in order to be able to cope with the demand of more participation of hon. members on this side. The dilemma we on this side have is, first, that none of us knows where the list is kept, none of us knows where we stand on that list, and, third, we feel that we lose position on that list if we happen to miss a day or are out

travelling, and that we drop to the bottom of the list, missing our time.

We feel that that is a point of some importance because, if we know where we stand on the list and are able to cope with that, then perhaps we are in a better position to arrange our time in a different way in order not to miss our opportunities. As a result of that, many of us on this side of the House feel that there is a question of arbitrariness in the way members on this side are recognized. We know that it is not so. We recognize that there are problems in terms of the way in which Your Honour sees us as well.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, could we have order in the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suppose the most direct way to bring about order would be to indicate with all the severity that I can command that the hon. member has no question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

C.R.T.C.

● (1450)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Second report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates—Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).

Second report of Standing Committee on Transport—Mr. Forrester.

First and second reports of Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development—Mr. Oberle.

First report of Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections—Mr. Patterson.

[Translation]

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

[English]

Third report of Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs—Mr. Halliday.

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]