

Saint-Denis, Royal Assent is not just a formality, far from it.

Second, I have always claimed that for the House to sit we should be 20 Members. Mr. Speaker said the prayers so I consider that a full meeting of the House even though it is for the purpose of only one thing. For the House to sit, there should be 20 Members. There may be 20 and on the eve of Canada Day, in the British parliamentary system, I see 20. However, there are not 20.

I regret that the Hon. Member has said that Royal Assent is just a formality. According to my learning of the British parliamentary tradition, Royal Assent is not only a formality. Yes, some day we may say: "Who cares about Royal Assent?" However, if we start on this road there will eventually be Members who say: "Who cares about the Speaker's Parade?" And then eventually they will say: "Why does the Clerk dress like a Christian brother?" And then perhaps you, Mr. Speaker, should start wearing a wig.

We have tradition. I have made no secret of my great respect for tradition. If people want to change tradition, I have a long series of proposals. However, I like the traditions of the British parliamentary system and I believe we should enhance them.

I see one of my most esteemed colleagues and I am sure he will allow me to put his name on the record to show that he is here. He is the Member for Parry Sound—Muskoka (Mr. Darling), my good friend. I see his nice smile and he is such a polite gentleman. He approves of what I say.

Therefore, I will give the floor back to you, Mr. Speaker. Some day we will not have to go through this kind of debate. Again, I extend to the Hon. Member for Rosedale my most sincere wishes for a happy Canada Day.

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make just a brief comment. I listened with interest, as a new Member, to all of this. I just happened to be passing by. The only point I would like to make is that if we can do this after one day's rest, imagine what we will be able to do by the twenty-fifth of September.

The second point I would like to make is a slightly more serious one. A point has been made and there are

Point of Order—Mr. Prud'homme

many Members who are not here who may have some strong views on the issue raised by the Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme). I hope that you will invite other Members of the House to make submissions to you, Mr. Speaker, before you pass judgment on the important issue which the Hon. Member has put to you.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I have just been informed that visitors from Montreal who were supposed to meet the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) and listen to his performance in the House were denied entry to the House of Commons. I wonder why the doors of the galleries are shut and why these distinguished visitors were not allowed to admire their excellent Member of Parliament from the visitor's gallery. I think the point raised by the Hon. Member deserves to be considered, and I certainly think the public should have the right to visit the House.

[*English*]

Mr. Prud'homme: Your Honour, I hate to abuse your kindness. I thank very much my esteemed colleague and friend, the Member for Papineau—Saint-Michel (Mr. Ouellet). I was totally unaware of what he was going to add. The people who are visiting Ottawa did not know that I was going to speak. I did not know myself. When I heard the bell I knew it was my duty to attend in the House. The Hon. Member's comment must be taken in the atmosphere of Canada Day. I had nothing to do with his comments, although I appreciate them. It is true that the galleries are closed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: A very short point of order. The Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Milliken).

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

[*English*]

The Hon. Member for Leeds—Grenville (Mr. Jordan) and the Hon. Member for Haldimand—Norfolk (Mr. Speller) have asked me to indicate their interest in this subject as well. I think that what we are witnessing here is further evidence of the contempt of Parliament on the part of the Government to which I referred in my speech the other night. I agree with what the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) has said. In light of what is going on outside I think it would be appropriate to