

necessary to dispose of the main motion; otherwise, after the amendment and any subamendment have been disposed of, the debate on the main motion may be resumed;

(d) at 15 minutes before the time of adjournment on the second sitting day following the resumption of the debate on the motion of the Minister of Justice pursuant to paragraph (c), the Speaker shall put every question necessary to dispose of the motion, including any amendments and subamendments proposed thereto; and

(e) any member who, not having spoken in the debate either on the main motion or on an amendment or subamendment may at any time before the fulfilment of the conditions set out in paragraph (b) deliver to the Clerk a written speech relevant to the debate of not more than about 3,000 words, which will be printed as an appendix to the House of Commons *Debates* on the day following the conclusion of the debate.

Madam Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) on a point of order.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I have a point of order.

Madam Speaker: I recognized the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, it is customary to recognize first the official opposition. What is happening today?

Madam Speaker: I am terribly sorry. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre gave me notice yesterday that he would rise on a point of order at this time. I know it is customary that I recognize a member from the opposition first, and I usually do. However, when I do get notice I try to put things in the order in which I receive them. In this particular case, I received notice yesterday from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. He told me precisely what his point of order would be. Subsequently, the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) gave me oral notice of a point of order, but his was of a general nature. Therefore, I think it is fair at this point today to recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I would appreciate the point normally. The normal courtesies and traditions have it that members of the official opposition are usually recognized first.

I am aware that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) gave you notice, Madam Speaker. If the matter were a question of privilege, then I think that notice would have had some validity; but it is not a question of privilege and the notice is not critical in terms of giving recognition first to any member on a point of order. I know of no practice which exists in this regard. As the House leader for the opposition, I claim the right, if I may do so, in the normal traditions and passage of events, to be recognized first. That is the position I take.

I do not think we should depart from the normal practices of the House. I am aware of the notice that was filed. I indicated to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre—and I am not catching him by surprise—that I intended to exercise the right that I feel, by tradition in this House, falls upon Her Majesty's loyal opposition and upon the official opposition. I happen to occupy the position of opposition House leader. It is

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a position, for better or for worse, which is recognized in the House of Commons Act.

I could go on for some time because, with respect, Madam Speaker, I think I do have the right to advance an argument. It may well be the argument I would advance would encompass part of the argument that will be made by my friend, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, because he was quite precise about the argument he will be dealing with and he will have his opportunity in the normal course. Therefore, I claim the normal courtesy in this matter.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, I simply want to say it is true that the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) told me he would try to get ahead of me on this matter. I told him that I could not stop him from trying to do so, but that I would claim my right, having given notice yesterday.

Mr. Nielsen: Notice is not necessary.

Mr. Knowles: I think perhaps I shall leave that determination to the Chair. Of course, if hon. members are not satisfied with the person on whom the Speaker has called, they can move a motion under Standing Order 29.

Madam Speaker: I recognize the arguments which the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton has just put forward. It is true that members of Her Majesty's loyal opposition have certain privileges in this House, but I am not sure they apply in this circumstance.

It is true that, as a matter of courtesy, members of the opposition are usually recognized first on points of order which deal with government business. However, in this particular circumstance it seems to me that I owe the courtesy to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre because he gave me notice of it yesterday.

I am just trying to be as courteous and as fair as it is possible to be. The same situation occurs when members rise during question period. Sometimes five members rise at the same time and they have to be put in a certain order. But if one rises before the other, the first one to rise is usually recognized. The hon. member has said, quite rightly, that it is a matter of courtesy. I accept that as being a matter of courtesy, but this time I think I owe the courtesy to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, and I will recognize him.

I see the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) is rising.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, with respect, it is not a matter of courtesy; it is a matter of long-standing usage, custom and practice in this House to recognize the opposition House leader. I, for one, resent that kind of departure from our customary practices. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Burlington (Mr. Kempling):

That the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton be now heard.

Madam Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.