

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

to reach agreement on having a judicial inquiry established. I am quick to say, Mr. Speaker, that the premier of Nova Scotia may not have known that this type of political collection was going on; but certainly as leader of the Conservative party in Nova Scotia he is now in a position, the matter having been raised in committee, to find out very quickly whether misguided members of his party have been enforcing such collections.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Aiken: Find out about what has been going on at Ottawa, let alone Nova Scotia.

Mr. Regan: If he finds that this is the case, knowing as we all do that shared cost programs depend on mutual trust between governments, I call on the premier not to wait until all the details are dragged out in committee. Let him state now whether he condones the practice or condemns it. If he does not approve of what has been done let him show it by acting now so that his action will yet appear to be voluntary.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Regan: Let him show that he is not the sort of man who would sit back in the hope that the facts will not be uncovered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Aiken: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Regan: —I did not get the floor until 10.05, and I had my hon. friend from St. John's East check the time. I have seven minutes and, as I say, I did not get the floor until 10.05.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. There are two points of order to consider at the moment.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, surely this is a direct abuse of the rules which were established for this house. The hon. member has been attacking a provincial premier in the House of Commons. It is out of order and unheard of.

Mr. MacEwan: He could not get into the Nova Scotia legislature so he had to do it here.

[Mr. Regan.]

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I would remind you and the hon. member for Halifax—he may get around to asking about snowblowers tomorrow—that Your Honour has already called the hon. member's allotted time and I am now awaiting the answer from the responsible minister, who is not even in the house.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: May I suggest to hon. members that the point of order raised by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka is, in my opinion, quite valid.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. member kindly resume his seat. The hon. member said he had a timekeeper. I would remind him that the Chair also has a timekeeper. There appears to be a discrepancy between the timekeepers. The hon. member said he rose at 10.05 and the Chair called him at 10.11 or thereabouts. I do not think the hon. member should quarrel about a few seconds one way or another. The hon. member's time having expired, the minister or his representative should now be allowed to reply.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege—

An hon. Member: Order. Sit down.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of privilege and I should be allowed—

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, I have not had an opportunity to speak on the point of order. If you were to rule in that regard then I would now speak on that ruling.

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that there is no question of privilege. The point of order has been settled and I would ask the hon. member to co-operate with the Chair.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, you have not yet given me the opportunity of speaking on the point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Perhaps I should bring to the attention of the hon. member the fact that he must resume his seat when the Chair has the floor.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has made a ruling. If the hon. member wishes to appeal that ruling it is his privilege to do so, but the question has been settled. The parliamen-