

We have now brought ourselves back as far as we can to the same position we were in before the new rules were brought forward in 1968. With this government, there are now many more causes for grievances.

For many, many years it has been the tradition that supply cannot be granted to a government until everybody has a chance to ventilate grievances. We have certain procedures for those grievances. When there is an additional amount of time before six o'clock, there is a long tradition—I believe there is a song about that—which permits this to be done. If there is any doubt in Your Honour's mind, I think the benefit of that doubt should be given to those members of this House who have so many grievances to raise.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Although I wish to sympathize with the point raised by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), he will admit that we have changed the procedure of supply. In the days the hon. member is talking about there was always a motion before the House that the Chairman leave the chair. The procedure is not the same.

The hon. member will admit that I have tried to seek the consent of the House. I am trying to be as co-operative as I can. However, I do not make the rules of this House.

Hon. members have had the experience of the last three times. It might be worthwhile to look into the possibility within the next few days of having an order of the House by agreement for a procedure to follow, or include it in an agreement by unanimous consent on other days.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I wish to remind the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Olivier) that the tradition transcends this parliament. It goes back to Charles the First, a king who lost his head on account of this type of behaviour.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): If this government and its trained seals—I beg your pardon, its supporters, I do not want to insult the seals—is so sensitive to the grievances from opposition backbenchers, then I say to the government House leader that he better have a chat with some of his people because that traditional right, and the matter which I wanted to raise in the course of discussion, are important. The latter deals with the whole failure of the committee system in this parliament as it deals with estimates. In terms of dealing with estimates the committee system has failed as a result of the operation of the rules of this House that were put through this House by closure long before I came here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): We have only considered one vote in the agriculture committee, vote No. 75. None of the estimates before the broadcasting committee have been considered. We have not even dealt with Information Canada yet. The health and welfare committee has not dealt with the estimates of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet). The transport com-

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mittee has not had time to deal with the Post Office estimates.

Speaking to the point of order which was raised at the beginning, I think that these matters are important. Items of this nature ought not to be laid to rest because the hon. member for Longueuil is so sensitive about criticism and takes such a dreadful attitude to the rights of members of parliament who are backbenchers like himself.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): If the hon. member for Longueuil is representative of the majority of his party, then I fear for the parliament of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Out of fairness to the government House leader, I am going to give him his 30 seconds to answer.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

[*Translation*]

Order, please. I would invite the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Olivier) to take his seat.

[*English*]

The House will deal with one thing at a time. We are dealing with a point of order. I will call upon the government House leader on the point of order.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the front benches of the government would have followed my advice. However, I say to the hon. member who has spoken that all members of this House have equal rights.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): On the same point of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Olivier) has the right to be heard. I will then recognize the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), and then the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker). I invite other hon. members, who I am sure want to be fair to all members, to give the Chair an opportunity to hear the points that are being raised.

[*Translation*]

The hon. member for Longueuil.

Mr. Olivier: Mr. Speaker, I wonder what the opposition has to object when we ask if there is unanimous consent. The Standing Orders are there. But according to our rules, as you make your bed, so you must lie upon it. If we want laws to be accepted, let us respect them. If I decide not to give my consent, I am free, being a member of the Parliament of Canada, not to give it. If they want to take this liberty away from me, it is just too bad, but I will not agree with them. The people have judged them as retrograde. Let them stay where they are, and I shall stay where I want to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.