

Point of Order—Mr. Nielsen

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) has just told me there will be no announcement today. Under the circumstances, there is no problem.

[English]

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to revert to questions?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I should like to make it clear that everything that had to be said on the subject has been said in the House today, so that there is no need for us to agree with the request made by the official opposition.

Madam Speaker: If I understand correctly, there is not unanimous consent.

● (1510)

[English]

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, is the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) saying that there will not be a statement made outside the House by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) or the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) before there is a statement in the House?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I said quite clearly that there was nothing more to add to what has been said in the House. I think my answer speaks for itself. It can be readily understood.

[English]

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I am sorry; this speaks directly to the rights of the House of Commons to be the place in which public policy is announced, and I am afraid that what the President of the Privy Council has said has left some ambiguity, whether intentional or not. When a statement is made by a minister with respect to a public inquiry, will that statement be made in the House of Commons or will it be made outside the House of Commons?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition knows perfectly well that when statements are to be made in the House at the time set for statements by ministers, we always have the common courtesy to inform the opposition in advance, and where feasible, and this has practically always been the rule, a copy of the statement is given to opposition parties. Since we have not advised them of our intention of making a statement on the subject in the House today, in addition to what has already been said, it is therefore clear that we do not intend to do so today, and it seems to me one could hardly be more specific than that.

[English]

Mr. Waddell: Madam Speaker, on a separate point of order, at the end of the question period the hon. Leader of the Opposition put a very pertinent question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources with reference to the federal inspectors' report on the very rig that sank, a report that was supposed to be made a short time ago. After listening to the minister's answer. I thought he was about to announce to the House that he would at least make that report public, but it was unclear as to when he would do that. I do not have the blues, so I wonder if I might ask on the point of order whether the government intends to announce this.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. It is not possible to do this on a point of order. The hon. member knows that he is simply prolonging the question period. The question period is finished. I cannot allow questions of that nature.

Mr. Parker: Madam Speaker, I would also like to follow that up on a point of order, because I do not believe that we have identified this afternoon who is responsible for the health and safety of these workers. The minister has not yet clarified whether it is his government. Is the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources telling hon. members on this side of the House that, as far as energy is concerned, it has responsibility over health and safety—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is debating the question again. I cannot hear that.

MR. NIELSEN—PRINTING IN ORDER PAPER OF FILED
OPPOSITION MOTION—RULING BY MADAM SPEAKER

Madam Speaker: I would like to rule on the point of order which was brought up last Friday by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). His point of order was that the notice filed by him in the name of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) pursuant to Standing Order 58(4)(a) did not appear on the notice paper of Friday, February 12, 1982.

Before dealing with this point, I should like to clarify certain references made to the Order Paper by the hon. member in his submission on Friday last. The hon. member alleges that the government, merely by verbal announcement, has altered an item appearing on the Order Paper. I respectfully submit to the hon. member that the government does not alter the Order Paper. Only decisions by the House can have that effect. On the other hand, the notice paper is made up of notices given by members of the House in accordance with the Standing Orders. The production of these papers is under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

Reference was made to page 2 of the Order Paper which is entitled "Projected Weekly Order of Business". Although it is not an official part of the Order Paper, it is inserted for the information and the convenience of hon. members. The same is true of the notes projecting dates for allotted days when announced or a note placed under a particular government order or private member's item of business. They are there for the guidance of hon. members. In this instance, the note