

Bretton Woods and Related Agreements Act

Mr. Forrestall: And be respectful.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member will please sit down.

Mr. Crosbie: We need a parliamentary psychiatrist.

Mr. Cassidy: Your Party needs a parliamentary psychiatrist.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cassidy: If you want to fight this way, we will fight this way.

You want the Speaker on your side, the way she was on your side. Is that what you want to do? Black Friday all over again, is that what you want to do?

Mr. Mazankowski: Shame on you.

Mr. Cassidy: Shame on yourself. Repeat the words the Minister of Defence (Mr. Beatty) used the other day.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please. Standing Order 13(4) reads as follows:

When the Speaker has put the question on any debatable motion, except as provided pursuant to section (2) of this Standing Order, the bells to call in the Members shall be sounded for not more than thirty minutes; provided that, while the Members are being called in, either the Chief Government Whip or the Chief Opposition Whip may approach the Speaker to request that the division be deferred, in which case the Speaker shall defer the said division until a specified time, but, in any case, not later than 6.00 o'clock p.m. on the next sitting day thereafter, when the bells to call in the Members shall be sounded for not more than fifteen minutes . . .

This is exactly what took place. As it was 5.35 p.m., we could simply go on with Government business. This is exactly what I did, as occupant of the Chair. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre may well disagree with this ruling, but it was made pursuant to our Standing Orders and I am sure the Hon. Member will want to reflect on the words he used which were heard by everyone in this Chamber, casting doubts about the impartiality of the Chair. As occupant of the Chair, I can only apply the procedural rules that were established in all fairness and without any prejudice.

● (1740)

[English]

Resuming debate. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre.

[Translation]

Mr. Cassidy: Madam Speaker, you have explained the way the Government is allowed to defer a vote according to our rules. But may I remind you that we, in the Opposition, believe that the Chair must maintain, broadly speaking, some sense of order, of fair play and of justice in our proceedings.

Now, Madam Speaker, you have called earlier a vote on the Bill before the House in a way that prevented the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) and myself to ask any question. Honestly, we were truly disappointed!

I might not have been very warmly in my comments but I was very concerned because we thought that the Chair was prejudiced against one side.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cassidy: Secondly, Madam Speaker, you know that the situation will be critical should the Government decide, without notice, to call this Bill, in an orderless manner. This is what I objected to in the point of order I have just made.

Now, I could perhaps ask you, Madam Speaker, to take note of my comments, since I think that it is very clear that the House will not operate properly if there are constant changes to the order of business, the Standing Orders, from one bill to another . . .

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Cassidy: You know that this will not work out and that the House must proceed in an orderly fashion.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) referred as well to the time or the way in which the question was put regarding Bill C-129. I would like to remind the Hon. Member that his colleague, the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom), rose on a point of order asking me to ensure that there was a quorum in the House, which as the Speaker I did promptly. Once a quorum was re-established in the House, once we proceeded again, I gave the floor to the Hon. Member who had been answering questions. Hon. Members at that point asked for the question to be put.

I must tell the Hon. Member that at that point neither he nor the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville were in the House.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Speaker was asked to put the question. No one rose to ask for the floor. I was asked to put the question. It was the question which I put to the House.

During his recent intervention the Hon. Member accused the Chair—

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): —of a lack of fairness and of fair play.

An Hon. Member: Withdraw!