

another Minister might have answered for him. That opportunity may be taken by any Member on this side, whoever is able to answer when a Minister may not be questioned on matters pertaining to his previous administrative responsibility. For fear this will turn into another major debate, I must end it. I am sorry, I apologize, but I must end the discussion here.

● (1520)

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Madam Speaker, I wish to raise a question of privilege—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I realize that the Hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien) wishes to raise a question of privilege, but the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) notified me well before the Hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources that he intended to raise one. Therefore, the Minister may raise his question later on, but I must first recognize the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

[English]

Mr. Waddell: If the Government thinks it has put this to bed, why is it so touchy over there?

MR. WADDELL—PROCEDURE DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I want to raise a question of privilege with respect to my right to ask a question. I believe the specific issue is a difficult one. Where a question is put but it is borderline as to whether the Minister has responsibility and therefore should be allowed to answer, and when he is allowed to answer, the question then is: Can I follow up his answer?

I draw your attention to *Hansard* at page 23214, Friday, February 25, when the Hon. Member—

Madam Speaker: Order, order. That is not a question of privilege. The question was intercepted by me during the course of the Question Period. My decision stands. The Hon. Member was addressing a question to a Minister who was not able to answer because the question dealt with responsibilities which he had formerly. There is no question of privilege there. I am very sorry. The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway does have a hard time understanding when I determine that is not a question of privilege. He never accepts it the first time; I do not know why.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I am raising a question of privilege because my Department was mentioned during question period, and in my opinion, the question put by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Nielsen) should have been put to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and not to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde). In fact, I was a little late

Point of Order—Mr. Deans

in getting to the House because of a meeting with the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Premier of Alberta. Nevertheless, since the question involves my Department, I think it is my duty to rise at this point and to report the facts to the House as they are, because the allegations made by the Leader of the Opposition—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I will not fault the Minister on the fact that he was not in the House. I agree that the Minister has a duty to answer questions concerning his Department, but if he was not in the House when the question was put, I can hardly allow him to rise now after the oral question period has ended. He can and should answer the questions on another occasion.

Mr. Chrétien: Madam Speaker, when the question was raised, the Hon. Member did not even want to ask his question—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Even if the question is directed to another Minister, if the person asking the question does not direct it to the incumbent of the appropriate department, the Minister concerned may answer for another Minister. It is up to the Ministers to decide whether the question does or does not involve their department.

Mr. Chrétien: I am raising a question of privilege. I think that if they want to know the truth . . . They do not want to know the truth—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Minister sets great store by the Rules, but he should also be mindful of the rule that when the Speaker rises and asks for order, all Members must act accordingly. Otherwise, there can be no order in the proceedings of the House, and it is certainly in the interest of all Members that order and decorum be maintained.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

MR. DEANS—REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION OF CITATION
359(6) OF BEAUCHESNE

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I wonder if you would be kind enough to take under advisement and inform the House at some subsequent time the answer to a question I have with regard to the interpretation of the rules. You quoted Beauchesne, Citation 359(6), today which provides, and I quote:

The Minister to whom the question is directed is responsible to the House for his present Ministry and not for any decisions taken in a previous portfolio.

On Friday last, the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) asked a question of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) which related directly to a period of time when, in addition to being the Deputy Prime Minister,