

Point of Order—Mr. MacEachen

point of order but by way of caveat, the opportunity to argue this matter at some other time. Hon. members will be aware that the point raised has several elements, the first of which is the discretion in the Chair, having recognized a questioner prior to 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon, to grant that questioner sufficient supplementaries to pursue the matter to a conclusion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The second element that has been raised directs itself to the difficulty that arose some time ago in the last session of this parliament when a motion pursuant to Standing Order 43, having been accepted with unanimous consent, was put to the House, debate began and then the Chair had to decide whether that debate should be interrupted in accordance with the strict terms of the Standing Order so as to commence the question period at 11:15 a.m., that day being a Friday, and conclude at twelve o'clock, and somehow determine the status of that measure which had been taken under consideration by the House prior to 11:15.

The third element in the point of order raised by the hon. President of Privy Council is that in fact the order which has been cited is one that was adopted by this House in the last session of this parliament and which has not been readopted in this session. The provision order under which we are operating and following this procedure, therefore, is one which—it seems on the consensus of everyone—is a beneficial procedure. The alternative is to revert to the previous routine proceedings and take up questions of privilege and points of order during the question period, and then somehow try to deduct those from a 40-minute question period. That is the way it was before and I think most members agree it was not as satisfactory an arrangement as the present one.

The fourth element relates to other proceedings which take place at a fixed time during the day, such as whether the Chair has any discretion to interrupt, for example, private members' hour if some point of privilege is raised which takes time away from that period, or whether other proceedings which take place at a fixed time can be moved aside at the discretion of the Chair.

The last point that has been raised and ought to be considered by hon. members in respect of this is that on previous occasions questions have been raised prior to 2:15 since the adoption of this provisional order in which ministers, for example, have sought the opportunity to make a statement to the House knowing that the statement would have some fundamental relationship to the question period which was about to take place. They have therefore sought the consent of the House or the discretion of the Chair, as the case may be—I am not aware of the details at the moment—to make that statement prior to the question period in the expectation, I am sure, that the Chair would guard a certain 45-minute question period following that. On some occasions the Chair has taken that discretion.

It seems to me, therefore, that this is not a single point of issue. It has at least the five elements I have just mentioned and probably several others that hon. members will want to

[Mr. Speaker.]

consider. If we launch into a discussion of this matter I would certainly want it to cover all these points comprehensively before coming to a final decision about whether we can even operate on this basis at all or whether we have to go back to orders the way they were.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 1,258, 1,467, 1,477, 1,484, 1,489 and 1,490.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

ROYAL VISIT

Question No. 1,258—Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):

Was there any cost to Canada for the visit of Her Majesty in October 1977 and, if so, what was the cost for travel, receptions, etc.?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): During 1977, Canada was honoured by the visits of HRH The Prince of Wales (July 5-9, 1977) and Her Majesty the Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh (October 14-19, 1977). The total cost of these visits amounted to \$484,752 as at February 28, 1978. Separate expenditure records were not maintained for each visit as the planning and administrative functions were ongoing, and were applicable to both visits.

CANADA WORKS PROGRAM

Question No. 1,467—Mr. Allard:

1. Since the implementation of the Canada at Work Programme, did the government allocate money to the Constituency of Rimouski and, if so, in what amount?

2. For each project accepted, what was the (a) name of the project (b) amount allocated (c) year of acceptance (d) name of the municipality involved (e) number of jobs created?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): 1. Yes, \$1,198,000 under Canada Works Program phase I and \$1,907,000 under Canada Works Program phase II.