

Privilege

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to cause trouble for the Chair. I take that to mean that I can be absent tomorrow even if that member is back. The question will be argued on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: I assure the hon. member for Calgary West that as I was not prepared to proceed too long without the hon. member for Kamloops being here, I will not proceed without the hon. member for Calgary West being here. I am sure that the genius of this place can work out an appropriate time to continue the discussion.

The hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I will be brief. Your Honour is aware of the fact that I was seeking the floor prior to the intervention by the government House leader and on the point to which Your Honour indicated he wishes to reserve.

I want to raise two very brief points, Mr. Speaker. This is an important point. The first is to draw to Your Honour's attention a point which was not made during the course of the debate. That is that there was a very clear and unequivocal denial yesterday—

Mr. Speaker: I really am going to ask hon. members to support the Chair. I have heard the debate. I know the issues inside out. I understand exactly what I have to consider and I will look very carefully at what was said today. It may very well be that I will consider what was said yesterday, if that is what the hon. member is leading to.

Mr. Robinson: A point of order on a different matter.

Mr. Speaker: I am prepared to hear a point of order on something completely different. Unless the House is not going to support the Chair, the debate is over.

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POINT OF ORDER**COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD**

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a very brief point of order, not related to the earlier discussions.

In the exchange in the House today with the Minister of the Environment, he asked at that point about providing him with names of people who made charges

of cover-up and other such words regarding the environmental process.

I would like you to know, Sir, that the day before yesterday I advised the Minister of Justice of two names of individuals who had these concerns and that two additional names have come forward today of which I will be advising the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the hon. member's intervention. He knew things I did not know when he phrased his preamble and I appreciate very much that point of order. I am sure it will be of help to everybody.

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PRIVILEGE**DISTURBANCE IN GALLERY**

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I will not, following your injunction, return to the substance of the point of order which was raised earlier.

I did want to raise a procedural concern. That is, in view of the seriousness of the charge that has been laid and the consequences which flow from that charge, both with respect to the member that laid it and with respect to the member against whom the charge was made, I would seriously request that Your Honour reconsider the decision to reserve on this question and bring back a decision as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member, who has had many years of experience in this place, knows full well that we all try to press our point. I have indicated that I am going to reserve. I think it would be inappropriate for the Speaker to respond in haste to a matter of this importance. I will assure the hon. member for all of the hon. members in the New Democratic Party, and especially the hon. member who is the subject of this, that I will not delay unduly.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before I call Orders of the Day, it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the question to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Malpeque—The environment; the hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway—Sexual Discrimination; the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon—Route Canada.