

Privilege

was ready for the question without calling for further debate. I had risen a number of times previously and although *Hansard* did not indicate it, the Speaker indicated by her body language that she had known that I wished to speak. As you are so capable of doing, Mr. Speaker, one knows when people want to speak.

When I rose at the time to question the ruling of the Acting Speaker, she told the House that she had indeed asked for further debate. I was not convinced that was the case at the time and a review of the televised proceedings bears that out, as does *Hansard*.

I refer you to page 9557 of *Hansard*. At the conclusion of the remarks of the member for Saint-Léonard the Acting Speaker says:

Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members say: "Question".

The Acting Speaker then says:

The question is as follows: Mr. Hockin, seconded by Mr. Clark (Yellowhead), moved that Bill C-56, an act to amend the Small-

At that point I was on my feet and had been on my feet. I was dressed in a bright red jacket. I am not in any way, I think, unnoticeable in this House, as some of my colleagues may be, particularly the member for Mission—Coquitlam. I think I was quite visible. At that point I interjected and said: "On debate." The Acting Speaker then said:

I did ask if there was anyone for debate and nobody rose.

At that point I was quite incensed, Mr. Speaker. I said:

Point of order, Madam Speaker.

I leave you to read the transcript, Mr. Speaker. I believe that my ability as a member of Parliament has been infringed upon. I was elected to represent my constituents. The timing of this debate on the Small Businesses Loans Act was crucial for my constituents. It was concurrent with the filibuster that was occurring in the GST committee and the mood of this House indicated that more debate was needed on this matter. I am aware that you can correct many things, Mr. Speaker, but turning back the clock is not one of them.

I am asking on this point of privilege for some acknowledgement of the fact that my rights as a member have been infringed upon.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on the same point?

Mr. Whittaker: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Very brief.

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt): Mr. Speaker, I was present at that time. I just point out that at page 9557, in addition to what the hon. member has already told you, part way down the left hand column the Acting Speaker said: "There is a minute left on questions. The hon. member."

I believe there is something left out of the transcript just prior to that. In reviewing the video Your Honour will see that at that stage she did ask: "On debate?" Sitting in this corner, I did see the hon. member rise indicating at that stage that she was on debate. I think that that may assist Your Honour, if he goes back and looks, in reaching a decision.

Mr. Speaker: Ordinarily I would have to say that this does not seem, *prima facie*, a question of privilege. It is certainly a complaint, and the hon. member has referred to it as an error. There is of course now, under the rules, no appeal from a Speaker's ruling.

I must say to the hon. member that I regret very much that, if she wished to be heard in debate, something happened that made that impossible.

I will consider the matter. I do not think I can remedy the situation but I will, in view of the comments that have been made, consider the matter. I do not think there is any need for me to report back to the House. I know that all hon. members are concerned if someone wished to speak and, for whatever reason, an error or an oversight or something else, that did not happen.

I take the hon. member's complaint seriously, and I will consider it. I thank the hon. member for her brevity.

Could the member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca indicate what his point is? Then I will turn to the hon. member for Essex—Windsor.