

Alleged Lack of Government Leadership

leadership on the part of the government. That was only one subject and one subject alone which up until this time he had dealt with. I submit that up until now he is perfectly in order in the manner in which he has proceeded.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I wish to say just one word. What we want the opposition to do is to show their decision and not to engage in indecision—

Mr. McIlraith: Observe the rules.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —on that which they intend to ask non-confidence.

Mr. Pearson: I think the Prime Minister and the government have made a gallant attempt to limit me in the evidence that I wish to bring forward in order to show that this government is indecisive, confused, bungling and lacking in leadership.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You are proving it by your own testimony.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I wish the Prime Minister would try to contain himself.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I am rising again to a point of order. The hon. gentleman must let us know upon what particular specific matter he is going to ask for a vote of non-confidence. I have mentioned this matter more than once and I want a ruling on it, Your Honour. I wish to find out which minister is supposed to be here and is going to answer it. A great deal has been said about what is going to be done. A great deal has been said outside the house about what is going to be done, and what kind of motion is going to be moved. Let us know what it is and let us get down to something specific.

Mr. Chevrier: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I say this, and I do so with great respect. I think Your Honour should ask the Prime Minister to observe the rules of this house. Ever since the Leader of the Opposition rose to make his amendment, the Prime Minister has consistently interrupted—

Some hon. Members: Oh, no.

Mr. Chevrier: —first by cross fire from his side of the house and from his seat—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chevrier: —and next by raising points of order which are not points of order at all. He has called on Your Honour to make a ruling, notwithstanding the fact that Your Honour had made quite clear what the position was and had allowed the Leader of the Opposition to go on with his remarks. None the less, the Prime Minister is allowed to make these statements and interruptions

[Mr. Chevrier.]

although on an earlier occasion he complained very bitterly in this house that he was not given an opportunity to speak. Now he wants to give the same treatment to the Leader of the Opposition. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that in the light of the decisions that have been submitted by the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond, Your Honour should rule so that we may have the debate and may learn all about the hesitations, indecisions and contradictions of the government.

Mr. Aiken: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I say this. On March 20, 1961, at page 4137 of *Hansard*, a definite ruling was given to the effect that the opposition, in a motion of this type, cannot cover the whole field; that on a supply motion the opposition is limited to one particular point not previously decided or considered. I sent for the references and they have just arrived. The decision is clear on this particular point.

An hon. Member: Take your time; there is no hurry.

Mr. Aiken: While I am looking up the reference, may I say that this particular decision was made with regard to a completely similar scattergun introduction that was made, and at that time the objection was taken that one subject must be covered and the ruling was made. If I could take the time to find the reference, I could give it, because it was made on that date.

Mr. Knowles: I should like to say a brief word on the point of order. It seems to me that we have had a good deal of confusion in the past few minutes. We have also had something which I think is quite uncalled for, namely a statement by the Prime Minister as to what the Leader of the Opposition must do in his speech.

An hon. Member: If he is going to follow the rules.

Mr. Knowles: Before hon. members make interjections about the rules they might read the rules. At this point, Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with something which is referred to as a motion that keeps alive the ancient doctrine that the redress of grievances can be considered. The Leader of the Opposition was given and has the floor. He is under no compulsion to move any amendment at all if he does not want to. He has said he is going to and I confess I should like it if he would point out fairly soon what it is he is going to tell us. But that is his decision. He has the floor by the rules, not by the grace of the Prime Minister. His time is unlimited and, as I say, if he wishes to use