

has been noted by many members, not just in the present parliament but in the previous one as well, that there are some members who continually abuse Your Honour's patience and misuse their colleagues' time.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Benjamin:** For example, today at least four hon. members felt they had the privilege of asking four or five supplementary questions, denying some of their own colleagues an opportunity to ask even one question. May I respectfully suggest, with regard to those members whom we all know who continually follow this practice, that the Speaker would have the complete support of other members if he did not see them.

• (1200)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Reilly:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of the hon. member to the south of us on this situation, particularly as I believe his party harbours within its ranks most of the questioners of whom he speaks. As one who has risen in his place fully 200 times in three hours and 20 minutes this week, I urge upon Your Honour the adoption of the system suggested by the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North as a kind of clemency for those who labour in darkness in the back row.

**Mr. Herbert:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. Last night I heard the hon. member for Don Valley say when he appeared on television that the question period was organized by the opposition parties. I therefore, suggest to hon. members that they organize themselves better.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair has heard the suggestions made by hon. members on both sides. I appreciate the points that have been made. The Chair tries fairly, in my view in any event, to give an opportunity to all hon. members. There are a number of difficulties. One is purely physical in that if 100 members want to ask questions it would never be possible for them all to do so even if we had a two-hour question period. I have very often suggested that perhaps an effort should be made by hon. members, in co-operation with the Chair, to give the newer members a chance.

I am in full agreement with the point made by the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North that under the system that has developed we are not giving some of the new members an opportunity to ask their questions. I am very anxious to co-operate with any kind of system that would make that possible. As we know, there is a Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization that looks at these very important matters. Perhaps that committee should look at this situation. I gather it will be convened in the near future. There are a number of problems the Chair would like to refer to that committee. I would certainly be pleased to refer this problem. I can assure hon. members that I will again try to give an opportunity to all hon. members, with perhaps an eye peeled in the direction of hon. members behind the front row.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Supply

**Mr. Baldwin:** I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if you would examine the list. There was a list that the Chair made last year of matters that might be referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization. With Your Honour's consent, that list might be advanced and the House leaders might look at it with a view to submitting this issue, along with several others, to the committee. The government House leader might also possibly organize a question period in the government caucus so that some of the uninformed Liberal members might be informed.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that one reason questions are repetitive and there are so many supplementaries is that the ministers try to evade the questions put to them.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am not sure at this point whether we are getting into an aspect of the debate which will be of much assistance to the Chair. I would hope hon. members would take that into account at this stage and try to be of assistance to the Chair.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps one way around the problem during the interim period until the matter is resolved by the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization would be for Your Honour to turn a blind eye toward the clock.

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Speaker, mention was made a moment ago of the fact that there are some physical difficulties because of the large number of opposition members who wish to ask questions. I fully agree with that, but beyond the physical difficulties there are traditional difficulties. I refer to the system of precedence which I feel should not extend beyond the leaders of the various opposition parties. I suggest that the reason we have so many supplementary questions is that when a backbench member finally catches Mr. Speaker's eye he has to make up for lost time by asking two or three supplementaries.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A), 1972-73—MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN VOTE L12a—DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

The House resumed, from Thursday, February 8, consideration of the motion of Mr. Drury:

That Vote L12a in the amount of \$350,000,000 of the Department of Finance for Winter Capital Projects Fund—Loans in Supplementary Estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be concurred in.