

Mr. Smith: Second, I think it is important to—

Mr. Lewis: A point of order! A question of privilege, Mr. Speaker!

Mr. Cousineau: You cannot rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis), the Parliamentary Secretary is rising to speak to the same point of order. The Hon. Member, I think, may take exception to the remarks, but he will be recognized later.

Mr. Lewis: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, very much a question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: At the end of the Parliamentary Secretary's remarks I will hear the Hon Member on a question of privilege.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, the phrase that the Hon. Member used, and he may not recall it, was that we on this side of the House did not have any Hon. Members from the West of any import.

Mr. McCain: He was right, dead right.

Mr. Smith: If he would like to withdraw that remark, I think it would be appropriate. He can check the blues and satisfy himself, but that is what I heard. We do not tailor the rules to satisfy the political achievements of whatever it is we are wanting to do. The rules are the rules.

Mr. Lewis: That is not what Perrault said.

Mr. Smith: They apply equally under all circumstances.

Mr. Lewis: Senator Perrault didn't say that.

Mr. Smith: I am disappointed that this interpretation of this particular new rule has been argued by Hon. Members who spent a bit of time on the committee which recommended this change. I have served on the committee. I know the background of it. The background as to why this was brought in was to prevent filibustering from going on at second reading.

If one considers the time spent on Government legislation in recent years, one finds that over 60 per cent of the time in the House has been spent on second reading debates which are supposed to be debates of general principle. It is pretty clear that what has in fact happened has been that the Opposition Parties—and this could have been true when the sides were reversed—have frequently staged filibusters at second reading stage so as to present the House from dealing with a measure. As a result, this change was recommended.

There cannot be an end run through a six-month hoist amendment. The rules quite clearly state, "When second reading of a Government Bill is being considered", etc. Then it gives the time limits. It does not make any exceptions and it does not state that it does not apply when we are discussing an amendment such as a six-month hoist. Second reading is

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second reading, and all things which fall within second reading are included in the calculation of times as set out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there other Hon. Members speaking to the point of order? The Chair recognizes, on a point of privilege, the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis).

Mr. Lewis: I would like to raise a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I want to reassure the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith) that I did say there were no Hon. Members of import from western Canada. In fact, neither of them, according to my records, has even spoken on the Bill to this point.

Mr. Pepin: They will.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is not really raising a question of privilege or point of order.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Parliamentary Secretary that Your Honour should interpret the rules. If one considers Section 35(1), it states that the general rule is that on a debate, Members speak for 20 minutes unless otherwise provided in the Standing Orders. Then when one considers Section 35(2), there is an "otherwise", providing that during second reading one is restricted to eight hours, 20 minute speeches, each with a ten-minute question period. However, the point is that we are not second reading; we are debating a special amendment. It is true that the Chair should probably restrict that debate to the six-month hoist. Nothing is relevant except the six-month hoist.

Mr. Smith: That's the most outrageous thing I have ever heard in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I say to the Hon. Member, when Orders of the Day were called, second reading was called. The Chair finds it difficult to accept the argument that the presentation of an amendment, which is part of the process of debate, would terminate second reading. This is still second reading of the Bill.

• (1150)

Mr. Taylor: I just want to make one comment. On Friday there was a point of order which lasted for 22 minutes. We have now been on a point of order which has taken approximately 20 minutes. Surely this point of order should not come off the eight hours.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member's point is well taken. If there are no further interventions concerning the point of order that has been raised, the Chair will reserve a decision on the matter. The Chair will recognize the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro).

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I join with the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) and urge the Chair to make sure that the eight-hour period for debate, whether on second reading or on the amendment, does not