

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, the Citation raised by the government House Leader refers only to guidelines which the Speaker who made out those guidelines decided to use in exercising his own discretion with respect to Question Period. If I am not mistaken, those guidelines were given some 20 years ago. Since that time, successive Speakers have recognized over and over again questions, of the very kind about which the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) complains, when they came from Conservative Members.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): I say that it does not sit well in the mouth of the government House Leader now to raise these points when, through the questions of his own side, he and his colleagues have established this precedent.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of the goodwill which we all accord to you, that you recognize what has developed in past years through questions accepted by the Chair from Conservative Members and use that point of view in carrying out the discretion given to you by the House. To do otherwise at this point would certainly undermine the spirit of goodwill and co-operation which I think we all want to have from here on in.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I regret that this has taken place today. This is our first day back and a new Speaker is in the chair.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis: The government House Leader has a responsibility to act as an example and to set a tone. We have regular meetings of House Leaders. If he had some concerns to raise today, there is an appropriate forum in which to raise those concerns. This first day in the House with a new Speaker in the chair is certainly not the place.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, consistent with what has already been said and the reference made to the precedent, I think we all understand that those guidelines have been set down and we all try to follow them. We are talking about now, and I appreciate that the Chair admonished cabinet Ministers to keep their answers short; that is fair ball. However, I would particularly draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the second question put by the Leader of the NDP, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), to the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) which included two argumentative preambles, a reference to the Minister undermining Canada followed by a quotation from a U.S. Senator in a U.S. newspaper. Then the question was asked.

We are saying, Mr. Speaker, that this is within the spirit of reform and I am not being argumentative at all.

Mr. Riis: This is the new civility, I take it.

Mr. Murphy: Maybe we can have the PMO leak something.

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Lewis: I can handle that too. This Question Period is for all Members of Parliament to hold the Government accountable. Short questions and short answers allow more Hon. Members to do so. More members of the Opposition can participate, as well as more members of the Government. I would ask you, Sir, to consider this representation when you make any sort of a ruling.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, this is an important question. I would ask you to take note of the fact that in Parliament, adequate time must be given to opposition Parties to properly present their points of view. To make a suggestion such as this in a Parliament which has the greatest majority in favour of government Members is completely ridiculous. When those Hon. Members were on this side, in a Parliament which was much closer in numbers, they asked questions which were even further out of order and longer and did not respect the points made by the House Leader today. If there is to be a change, it should never be made in a Parliament in which opposition Parties have as few Members as they have today. I would like you to consider that in making a decision, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I want to thank Hon. Members for bringing their concerns to my attention, and I accept with a certain amount of satisfaction the expressions of goodwill that have been made during those representations. I will, of course, be having regular meetings with representatives of all Parties of the House and I will be making special efforts to meet with individuals, groups of individuals and private Members. I will take into careful account the representations that have been made here today. I welcome the comments and the suggestions, and we will gather together to discuss what seems to be differences in approach which are properly expressed, especially to your new Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1210)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Bill Domm (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce for first reading three separate Private Members Bills dealing with the subject of capital punishment. Each Bill addresses different aspects of this important matter. For instance, one Bill focuses on first-degree murder and treason, while another establishes capital punishment for acts commonly known as terrorism.

In addition, the most recent Bill which has just been drafted provides for execution by the method of lethal injection as