

An hon. Member: That is the trouble with the point of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Chairman, if there is a Standing Order which must be followed tonight with regard to the hon. member who now has the floor, it is indeed that which deals with the disrespectful remarks he just made and the repetitions he has chosen to make for the last four or five days.

Therefore I respectfully suggest, Sir, that you make a ruling on this important point of order.

[English]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacInnis: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, I notice there are a good many rule books on the other side. The hon. member referred to Standing Order 34(2). I will read it as it should be read.

Mr. Speaker or the chairman, having called the attention of the House or of the committee—

So the responsibility for referring first to repetitious remarks by any hon. member belongs to the Chair and is not a matter for an hon. member to raise. This is written right into the rule.

[Translation]

Mr. Deachman: On the same subject, Mr. Chairman, the words do not seem to be the same as in the Standing Orders because this is how it reads:

Mr. Speaker or the Chairman, after having called the attention of the House, or of the committee, to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance, or repetition...

... again, and again, and again—

... may direct him to discontinue his speech, and if then the member still continues to speak...

—keeps talking, keeps the House busy—

... Mr. Speaker shall name him...

... That is, the name of the member—

... or, if in committee, the Chairman shall report him to the House.

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order—

[English]

The Chairman: The Chair would like to thank hon. members who have expressed their views on the point of order. I will hear further argument on the point if hon. members wish, but I am prepared to make a ruling now. However, hon. members should stay with the point of order which has been raised.

Mr. MacInnis: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman. It arises from the remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra, or wherever he comes from in British Columbia, implying that what I said was not, in effect, what I read from the rule. I read only so far from Standing Order 34(2):

Mr. Speaker or the Chairman, after having called the attention of the House—

That is where I paused. The responsibility for drawing the attention of members to repetition rests with the

Government Organization Act, 1970

Chair. I do not want to hear the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra, who has proven in the House before to be a liar—

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

The Chairman: Order. I am sure members of the committee realize we are engaged in an important debate and should not take up too much time on the point of order. As I indicated a few moments ago, I would like to rule on the point of order if hon. members would allow me to do so. It seems to me, with respect to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Mercier, that as the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond has indicated it is really at the instance of the Chairman or of Mr. Speaker that an hon. member is asked not to be repetitious. From my own experience in the House, it seems that over the years there has been a good deal of repetition, perhaps for the purpose of emphasizing points which hon. members wish to make.

I would think, though, with respect, that the point of order was well taken and I would ask the hon. member for St. John's East and other hon. members, in view of the fact that the point with which we are concerned tonight is not so much the terms of the Standing Order as the general relevancy of the debate, to confine their arguments at least to part IV of the bill, dealing with the establishment of ministries and ministers of state.

Mr. Boulanger: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman. Its purpose is to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that here on the government side we practice what we preach. As you will have noticed, I just spoke in English, as a Quebecker, and my hon. friend, as a good British Columbian, spoke in French.

Mr. MacInnis: And neither one of you said anything.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that if this bill were passed more ministers would be able to circumvent the rules of the House by making statements outside the House while the House was sitting, or by releasing important documents and reports outside the House when those documents ought properly to be tabled in the House. And more ministers would submit themselves to the illegal roster system, thereby depriving other hon. members of the opportunity of discharging their responsibility to their constituents by asking questions at the appropriate time.

Today the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion journeyed to the city of Halifax to release an important document which should have been released first in this House and to issue, together with that document, a statement. This illustrates the contempt which that particular minister feels for this institution. The report he issued today had been prepared by a government agency, the Atlantic Development Council. The document was an important one for the four Atlantic provinces, calling, as it did, for a ten-year strategy of development. It completely denies the present policy of the government and shows that policy to be one which is of little benefit to