

Introduction of Bills

Speaker and doing something which in some circumstances may be looked on as contempt of the Chair. If he does not, perhaps I will do it for him because he may have sinned but he has not known wherewith he has done.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I might point out to the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) that while his knowledge of theology is well respected here, what usually follows those words is: "Here endeth the lesson".

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Yes. Well, I want to end the lesson which my hon. friend really needs by saying that his first comment that the matter in question was dealt with earlier is, with the utmost respect, a specious argument. The fact that a motion was accepted when the Hon. Member got to his feet when petitions were called is, with the utmost respect, not a precedent because a point of order was not raised. There was no argument on the acceptability of the procedure. Therefore, if by accident the step taken by my hon. friend did actually take place, I respectfully submit that in the absence of argument and a ruling by yourself it is no precedent.

I therefore want to conclude by saying that the point of order raised by the Official Opposition Whip is a valid one for the reasons he has offered, for the reasons offered by the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) and, I hope you will agree, not least for some of the reasons, if not all, which I have offered myself.

Mr. Les Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest to you, Sir, with all respect, that two things have happened today. One

deals with the right to present petitions, which goes back to Runnymede. Unless you rule otherwise, any Member can prevent other Members from exercising their right to present petitions.

As to the point raised by the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), a vote was taken and agreed to concerning first reading of a Bill put forward by the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain). The Chair then recognized the Hon. Member and gave him the opportunity to give a brief explanation of his Bill. It was not to move any kind of motion. That is a privilege extended to Hon. Members and the explanation of the Bill is brief and the Hon. Member is held to that. You have allowed the Hon. Member not to say a word about his Bill.

Mr. Murphy: This is a government filibuster.

Mr. Benjamin: I suggest, Sir, with all due respect, in my usual humble manner, that you cogitate, meditate and ruminate on this overnight and rule that once you call petitions no other piece of business can occur until petitions are dealt with. When an Hon. Member is given an opportunity to explain his Bill on first reading, that is all he can do.

Mr. Nystrom: Six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is of course conscious of the force and effect and sincerity of all of the arguments and will consider them.

However, it being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.
