

Points of Order

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York Centre has indicated he wishes to raise a point of order arising out of Question Period.

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[Translation]

POINTS OF ORDER

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I tried to ask a supplementary, and I know there is a very long tradition of allowing supplementaries even when the Minister to whom the previous question was put is absent. In fact, my question was directed to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) and dealt with the same subject. It concerned the Government's policy on bilingualism, which was the subject of my first question. And even if my first question was intended for the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie), I submit, with all due respect, for the Chair, that I had the right to ask my supplementary, to demonstrate its validity even without the answer to the previous question.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I am grateful for the Hon. Member's representations. I suggest in that situation he should start with the question which goes to the Minister who is present. The Hon. Member knows my difficulty in this matter. I have indicated to the House before that I have some problem—how shall I say this? This particular speaker has been reminded *ad nauseam* that it is the Speaker's responsibility entirely with regard to supplementary questions. I think I have to say that it does seem difficult to me to grant a supplementary question when all that has happened in the Government benches is that the question has been taken as notice.

Does the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) have a separate point of order?

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): It is a similar point of order, Mr. Speaker, on which I would appreciate your guidance. I understand the point that if there has been no answer, it may not seem logical to have a supplementary question. However, on past occasions what has been accepted in the House is a statement such as: "Since notice has been taken of that part of my question, could you also take notice of something else?" That is what I would have wished to add today, if that had been possible.

Mr. Speaker: Order. These are not in fact points of order. As the Hon. Member knows, they are representations to the Chair, and I accept them as such. However, I think my view is pretty well known on this matter, although I would be happy to discuss these matters again.

DISABLED VISITORS TO PARLIAMENT HILL

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Chair has anything to report with respect to the point raised last week by the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille). It was with respect to access to the Chambers by the disabled because—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That matter was raised this morning at 11 o'clock and was responded to in the House.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-62, an Act respecting employment equity, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and Motion No. 8 (Mr. Nystrom).

Mr. Speaker: Before we resume debate I think I must deal with the procedural arguments. I listened carefully this morning to the procedural comments made by the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East (Mr. Allmand), the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) and the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn). I now wish to make a final ruling, having expressed my gratitude to them for their contribution.

The Chair has no doubt that Motion No. 10A, as a substantive amendment to the interpretation clause of this Bill, is out of order. The Parliamentary Secretary has argued that Motions Nos. 13A and 15 are consequential to Motion No. 10A and, therefore, should also be ruled out of order. Since I intend to deal with those motions later on in my ruling, I will say nothing further at the moment.

The Parliamentary Secretary also argued that Motion No. 21A is enlarging the powers of the Canadian Human Rights Commission. The effect of Motion No. 21A is to make certain documents available to the Human Rights Commission on request. The Chair cannot in the context of this Bill envisage this amendment as an enlargement of the powers of the Commission and will, therefore, allow the said motion to be put to the House.

In summary, as I indicated to the House on Thursday last, Motions Nos. 3A, 4, 5A, 6, 10, 19, 19A, 20B, 23, 28, 29 and 33A are out of order and will be dropped from this day's *Notice Paper*.

The Chair is also ready to inform the House of the result of the private representations it has received on the motions that were moved and defeated in committee. Those motions are the following: