

Points of Order

and, if time permits, and if not completed earlier, we will resume second reading debate on Bill C-6.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-5 passed second reading and I do not think we want to go back and redo it.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I think there has been some confusion between the Aeronautics Act and the airport devolution bill which was the one that we just put on the Order Paper. The numbers are wrong. I think the bill we are referring to is the airport devolution. I do not know its new number. It should be C-7 or C-8. I am not sure.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to take the time of the House, but to be clear, we will be on C-6 this afternoon. Friday will be an allotted day. Monday is airport devolution and Tuesday has yet to be decided.

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POINTS OF ORDER**ALLOCATION OF TIME DURING QUESTION PERIOD**

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to express my concern again that this side was denied any opportunity to ask more than two questions. I realize—

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. I would invite the hon. member to come and see the Speaker in the Speaker's chambers if the hon. member wishes. Nobody was denied anything.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: There are 45 minutes and I did the best I could today given the questions and the answers. Two members from the government side were heard. I would like to be able to do more. I would like to have more time. But it is not appropriate to say to the Speaker that somebody was denied their right to ask a question. That is not so.

EXTENSION OF QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, rather than listening to the daily new Conservative whine in the country, once again may I suggest that in order to

facilitate hon. colleagues across in terms of Question Period, let us agree now to extend Question Period for an extra half hour every day. It will allow more people an opportunity to participate.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, earlier in the last session, in response to a point of order from the hon. House leader of the Liberal Party, there was a concern about the length of questions and the length of answers. There has been concern about the number of questions.

In Parliament, all members are supposed to be equal. There are 100-plus backbenchers here who do not get an equal opportunity to ask questions. There is obviously a need for change and reform. Beauchesne's is full of descriptions as to what Question Period should be. No one would recognize Beauchesne's description and what happens in this House.

I think it is highly appropriate that we do discuss this matter. Perhaps we should follow the example of the mother of Parliaments in Britain where they manage to get in 45 questions in a 45 minute Question Period as opposed to the average of 26 we get. There is strict adherence to all of the rules. About an average of 30 seconds per question and 30 seconds for answers is the way they do it. Perhaps we might experiment with that and see if we would not be serving this House and the public who is watching a little better than we do.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have one brief question for the hon. member opposite. He makes reference to the quality and tone of Question Period here today and previous ones.

I would like to ask the hon. member: Who made you Speaker of this House? I would like to know that.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I want to seek the opinion of the Chair. I want to refer to three brief citations in Beauchesne's fifth edition: 358(1)(a), which were guidelines that were established by a previous committee, I think in 1964. It is still part of Beauchesne's and theoretically still part of our rules. It says: