

*Point of Order*

mentary. That is where the problem begins. If a supplementary question was confined to the definition of what a supplementary should be within the rules of this House, a great deal of time would be saved. Another five or six members, whether that side or this side of the House could ask questions, and it would save a great deal of pain and suffering.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I thank the hon. member. He may want to bring his suggestion to the house management committee. I am sure they will study it before they make their recommendation to the Speaker.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ouellet:** On a point of order.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Yes, one at a time, please, the hon. member for Papineau—Saint-Michel. The hon. member for Fraser Valley East has the floor.

[*English*]

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** Madam Speaker, if I might make one point, and I too recognize the dilemma that the Speaker finds herself in.

Has the Speaker ever considered trying to keep track informally of the amount of time that the questions are taking? Perhaps she could consider the amount of time that is taken up rather than trying to make sure that  $x$  number from each team get up.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** That also is a very good suggestion. I will tell the hon. member that some of that has been done but it is also a very good suggestion for the House management committee.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Madam Speaker, I would like to point out that the previous Liberal government never gave the Chair a list of persons to be recognized during Question Period.

This practice of submitting a list comes from the Whip and the government House leader. It started before you became Speaker. A previous Speaker started the practice of accepting from the Conservative government a list of backbenchers who should be recognized by the Chair.

This practice did not exist before. Madam Speaker, this practice does not exist in the Parliament in London.

The Chair has always maintained full discretion as to those who may ask questions during Oral Question Period.

I must say that of course I sympathize with the hon. member who claims that he was third on his party's list that was submitted to the Chair before Oral Question Period. I submit to you that this practice is not in the rules or parliamentary tradition and does not exist in the Parliament in London. I think that is one problem that government backbenchers have. They fully realize that there is some discrimination among them, because the member for Abitibi is always on the list and other members do not get on it as often as he does.

So I ask the Chair to review this practice which has been in effect since the Conservative government took power, whereby a representative of the House leader or of the Whip submits a list of names of those who the government thinks should be recognized by the Chair. This government practice should be abandoned.

[*English*]

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, I listened to the hon. member for Papineau and he has made some very interesting observations and comments.

I think the time has now come where the Speaker should not entertain lists. The Speaker should make his own decision as to who rises when the time comes by looking at the members, knowing their history and their interest in subjects that are being debated. I think that is a power that the Chair has and the Chair should exercise.

I personally, and I am sure we on this side, would gladly support the Chair in eliminating lists.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Madam Speaker, I have a great deal of esteem and respect for the chairman of the management committee, but I think he is going a bit too fast. What was just suggested, Madam Speaker, you who guide the destinies of this House with immense tact and great skill, should not lead you to conclude that this matter should forthwith be submitted to the Chair for consideration and a speedy ruling. The debate must go on. In fact, we are discussing the matter in the management committee. Only yesterday, my three party colleagues and myself were discuss-