

Point of Order—Mr. Robinson

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I clearly indicated that I had a supplementary question for the Minister of the Environment. The Speaker, however, said: "Obviously the Member does not have a supplementary question".

There is an appearance of, if not favouritism, certainly, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, please. If the Member has an allegation to make, he may make it, but not in this way. Does the Member have a point of order to make? The Hon. Member knows full well, I take it, that the question of who may ask a question or whether, in fact, any supplementary questions may be granted, is entirely at the discretion of the Chair. Is the Hon. Member, therefore, saying that a point of disorder occurred during Question Period under our rules?

Mr. Robinson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, in two respects, the first with respect to the precedent that the Speaker himself established. On October 3 of this year the Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. Could the Hon. Member give me a point of order? The Hon. Member is saying that something happened once. Is he then arguing, therefore—I am sorry. It is improper for me to debate this question with him, as I think he well knows. If he has a point of order to make, I would be glad to hear it. If his point is that a previous question was allowed that was improperly allowed, then I am prepared to look at that and determine whether in fact a previous question was improperly allowed by myself or anyone else. However, the Hon. Member knows full well, as he is an experienced Member of the House, that questions may not be put to Ministers with regard to their previous portfolios or a portfolio which that Minister no longer holds. I think that the Hon. Member is an experienced enough Member to know that.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I also have *Beauchesne's* and I believe it indicates that this House is governed by precedent.

However, my second point of order, Mr. Speaker, is with respect to the question of order that arises from a situation in which the Speaker indicates, despite the clear record, that a Member did not ask for a supplementary question when the Member clearly did ask for a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Robinson: That is a question of order.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of order. I recognized the Hon. Member for Burnaby clearly by saying: "Supplementary question". The Hon. Member for Burnaby rose to say that the Minister had not finished his answer. I, therefore—

Mr. Robinson: And I said I had a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I, therefore, went to the next questioner. I am more than happy to check the "blues" and if I have caused an offence to the Hon. Member, I will be more than happy to do the appropriate thing but, clearly, there is no question of order. I think that the Hon. Member is an experienced Member and knows that.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the Hon. Member rising on a separate point of order?

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, if I may conclude on this point of order, I would ask the Speaker to check—

Mr. Speaker: Please! Is the Hon. Member rising on a separate point of order? The Hon. Member, I think, knows full well that the question of who puts questions and whether supplementary questions may be put is entirely discretionary. If the Hon. Member wishes to pursue the matter he may want to come to see me, but I will be glad, as I indicated, to check the "blues".

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY MR. McMILLAN

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) on a point of order.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have a somewhat different point of order. During the course of his reply to questions asked here today, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) appeared to be reading some documents that had been provided to him that dealt specifically with the agenda of the former Minister of the Environment. He appeared, in fact, to be quoting from those documents in making his argument that the agenda was different in some way from the actual events that occurred—from the "itinerary" as he put it. I would like to ask you, if you would, Mr. Speaker, to review what was said during Question Period to determine whether in fact the Minister was citing those documents for the purpose of strengthening his reply. If that be the case, I would like to ask, respectfully, that he be requested to table the documents.

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could resolve this matter by assuring the Hon. Member that I was not referring to any official agenda or official itinerary. To the extent that I was referring to anything, I was referring only to handwritten notes to myself based on conversations I have had with the present Minister of State for Transport (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) with my own officials, her former officials, and with former and current members of her staff. I do not think, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that they fall into the category of that which would be appropriately tabled today.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to accept the Minister's assurances that he was not citing from official documents. I would request that, at some point, he and the former Minister get together to consider whether tabling the documents that relate to that particular trip might be advisable in the public interest.