

The House met at 12:00 Noon.

Prayers.

SPEAKER'S RULING

“On Monday I delivered a ruling explaining that it is not in order to ask a Minister a question or to raise in debate matters falling under the administration of the Speaker. This was with respect to a question that the Member for Dartmouth East had started to raise in Question Period on Thursday, November 4th.

After I ruled, the Member for Cape Breton South asked me to address a point he raised that the Member for Dartmouth East had been delivering a preamble to his intended question and that I had stopped him before he had posed the full body of his question. The Member for Cape Breton South questioned how I could do this without having heard the entire question that followed the preamble.

I understand the Member's frustration with the way the ruling unfolded and I think it is worth explaining my reasoning for stopping the question.

As Members will know, the Chair prepares for a variety of possible situations that may occur during any sitting, and prepares for procedural questions that may come up as a result. I had received a number of media inquiries about a personnel matter falling under the Speaker's administration and I expected that matters being pursued by the press might also be pursued in the House. However, I am also aware that questions about matters falling under my administration are not to be posed to Ministers in the House during Question Period.

Now as I explained in my ruling on Monday, that is one of the long-established practices governing the business here in our House. When I heard the preamble to a question raising just such a matter, I intervened to uphold that principle.

Perhaps I was like an expectant father and I jumped into action more quickly than usual but I felt it was appropriate to stop the question before it went too far. A preamble to a question, to the extent a preamble is permitted, is required to be directly relevant to the question that's being asked. Accordingly, when I heard the subject of the question, I felt it appropriate to take action because I had heard a subject that is out of order.

I understand that many Members may not have previously been familiar with the parliamentary practice I was seeking to enforce, and that quick intervention on my part may have surprised some Members. I trust that Members will now know that there was a parliamentary practice in issue and I certainly was not attempting to impose an arbitrary measure.

Because of this, when dealing with some of the less-known principles that bind parliamentary practice in the future, I will be mindful to offer a more immediate explanation of the reasoning I am applying.

I recognize that Members would have been less surprised by my intervention on Thursday if I had allowed the entire question before ruling it out of order, and I hope they'll understand that my intent was to uphold basic parliamentary principles, not to stifle debate, even though that is how it may have felt in the spur of the moment.

It truly is my intent to allow Members as much latitude as possible in exercising their freedom of speech in this place within the bounds set by traditional parliamentary practice, and I thank all Honourable Members for their attention today and their ongoing co-operation in the days to come. Thank you."

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

Hon. Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health, tabled the N.S. Health Research Foundation, Annual Report, 2009-10.

Hon. M. More, Minister of Education, tabled the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, Annual Report, 2009-10.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

Pursuant to the order, the following notice was passed in at the Clerk's table:

Res. No. 2081 - Hon. F. Corbett, Deputy Premier - recognizing the supreme sacrifices of the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces and taking part in a moment of silence in honour of Remembrance Day.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following bills were introduced by the following Members, read a first and ordered to be read a second time on a future day:

No. 90. An Act Respecting the Office of the Auditor General

(Hon. G. Steele - Minister of Finance)

No. 91. An Act to Amalgamate the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron and The Saraguay Club

(M. Raymond - Halifax Atlantic)

No. 92. An Act to Amend Chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Agriculture and Marketing Act

(L. Glavine - Kings West)

NOTICES OF MOTION

Pursuant to the order, the following notices were passed in at the Clerk's table:

Res. No. 2082 - Hon. Manning MacDonald, Opposition House Leader, on behalf of Hon. S. McNeil, Leader of the Official Opposition - pausing and paying tribute to the men and women who served for their country on Remembrance Day.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 2083 - J. Baillie, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party - ensuring that the sacrifices of men and women who fought for their country is not forgotten by the new generation.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 2084 - Hon. M. Samson, Richmond - congratulating everyone at Branch 47 for their continued efforts to continue to celebrate Remembrance Day.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House to meet Monday, November 15th at 7:00 P.M.

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32

The following notices were passed in at the Clerk's table:

Res. No. 2085 - Hon. F. Corbett, Cape Breton Centre - honouring the bravery and courage shown by Private James Peter Robertson, V.C. and countless others in the name of freedom.

Res. No. 2086 - B. Kent, Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage - commending Tallahassee Elementary School on the fifth annual "Say No to Bullying" program.

Res. No. 2087 - B. Kent, Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage - commending Ocean View Elementary School on the fifth annual "Say No to Bullying" program.

Res. No. 2088 - J. Baillie, Cumberland South - honouring Private George Lawrence Price and paying respect to his living family member, George Barkhouse.

Res. No. 2089 - J. Baillie, Cumberland South - honouring the bravery of Private James Peter Robertson, V.C. and remembering the sacrifices made by him.

Res. No. 2090 - Hon. C. d'Entremont, Argyle - congratulating Rudolph Muisse on 55 years of volunteer work.

Res. No. 2091 - P. Birdsall, Lunenburg - recognizing Derrick Church on receiving the Exemplary Service Medal on 25 years of continued service to the community.

Res. No. 2092 - P. Birdsall, Lunenburg - recognizing Doug Tanner on receiving the Exemplary Service Medal on 25 years of continued service to the community.

Res. No. 2093 - P. Birdsall, Lunenburg - recognizing Hewitt Hardiman on receiving the Exemplary Service Medal on 25 years of continued service to the community.

Res. No. 2094 - P. Birdsall, Lunenburg - recognizing Tony Feener on receiving the Exemplary Service Medal on 25 years of continued service to the community.

Res. No. 2095 - P. Birdsall, Lunenburg - recognizing Kevin Corkum on receiving the Exemplary Service Medal on 25 years of continued service to the community.