

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

A parliamentary inquiry is a request for information from the presiding officer with respect to procedure on a matter before the House. It is framed as a question.

When used at the close of a debate, as is common here in New Hampshire, it should be short and specific, an opportunity to summarize in a sentence 2-3 arguments from the debate. **It is not proper to use this to continue the debate under the guise of asking a question. It is not an opportunity for another floor speech.** A parliamentary inquiry at the end of a debate is correctly stated as follows:

MR. SPEAKER, IF I BELIEVE (or KNOW) THAT _____

_____,

and _____,

WOULD I NOW VOTE “YES” AND PUSH THE GREEN BUTTON?

(OR)

WOULD I NOW VOTE (NO) AND PUSH THE RED BUTTON?

Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure, Sections 250-254