

Senate committees are empowered, under the *Senate and House of Commons Act*, to administer an oath or affirmation to any witness. Such oath or affirmation may be administered by (a) the Speaker of the Senate; (b) the chairman of any committee; (c) such person or persons as may, from time to time, be appointed for that purpose by the Speaker of the Senate or by any standing or other order of the Senate.

DAILY SITTING OF THE SENATE

When the bell summoning the senators rings, the floor officers of the Senate assemble in the Speaker's outer office and form a procession to the Senate Chamber. The Speaker enters the Chamber, takes the Chair and reads the prayers.

After prayers the doors are opened unless a senator requests that certain matters be discussed in private. If the request is granted, the senators who have been waiting in the ante-chamber during prayers are admitted, but the doors leading to the galleries remain closed. After discussion the doors are opened. When all the senators are seated, the Speaker calls the order of business.

In the event of the unavoidable absence of the Speaker, there is no procession. The Clerk of the Senate informs the Senate that the Speaker is absent, and on the motion of the Leader of the Government, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, a senator is appointed Speaker *pro tem*.

See Journals of the Senate, 1979, pp. 102 and 154 and Rules 9, 10 and 11.

Order of Business (See Rule 19.)

1. Presentation of Petitions

Documents are tabled by the Leader of the Government or by a senator on his behalf. No debate is allowed at this stage except with the consent of the Senate, but a brief explanation may be given of any document.

A senator may present any petition entrusted to him.

See Rules 5(k), 51, 52, 53, 87, 88, 89 and 94.

A senator presenting a petition reads the heading and sends the petition to the Table. No action is taken at this time because in practice one sitting intervenes between the presentation and the reading of a petition.

A senator may without notice present a bill at any time during a sitting of the Senate. In practice this is done under "Presentation of Petitions," if in the case of a private bill the petition has been presented, read, received and reported on; if not, a private bill is introduced only after the petition has been read under "Reading of Petitions" and the report of the Examiner of Petitions for Private Bills has been tabled.