

At the back of the Order Paper on page XXXV we see this notice, "Notices of Supply Proceedings Pursuant to Standing Order 58(4)(a). Note: Friday, February 19, 1982—Third allotted day for the supply period ending March 26, 1982." Again, a change from February 12 to February 19.

At this point may I depart in support of my submission to you, Madam Speaker, that that change is not in accordance with proper practice and indeed with past practice. The example of this Order Paper which I will deal with has been repeated all the way back in the treatment of allotted days since they first came into practice in the House, which I believe was in 1969 or 1970. For example, in the Order Paper for Monday, January 25, 1982, there appears on page 2 at the top of the order for Tuesday, January 26, the following day, Questions on Order Paper, Government Orders and then the next order, (*Allotted Day—Supply*). At the back of the Order Paper for January 25, 1982, there appears the standard form of notice, "Notices of Supply Proceedings Pursuant to Standing Order 58(4)(a). Note: Tuesday, January 26, 1982—First allotted day for the supply period ending March 26, 1982."

Now, the next day's Order Paper for Tuesday, January 26, 1982, sets out at page 2 the next week's business. But the important part to be observed in the Order Paper for January 26 is that at the back of it where notices normally appear we see at page xxv:

NOTICES OF SUPPLY PROCEEDINGS
PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER
58(4)(a)

Business of Supply—First no-confidence motion for the supply period ending March 26, 1982.

January 25, 1982—That in the opinion of this House the opposition of Canadians from all walks of life, as expressed to the Members of Parliament of all three parties, proves conclusively that the budget of November 12, as amended by the statement in this House by the Minister of Finance on December 18, should be withdrawn and immediately replaced by a new budget.—*The Leader of the Opposition.*

Note: Not later than 9.45 o'clock p.m., every question necessary to dispose of proceedings shall be put forthwith in accordance with Standing Order 58(9).

January 25 is the date that has been placed on it by the Table. My point here is that the Order Paper contained a verbatim text of the motion that was filed. Here is where there has been a departure. I looked at today's Order Paper when I received it in my office and found that the text of the motion which I filed yesterday did not appear.

Now, I did not withdraw it. I did not give any indication that I was going to withdraw the motion that was standing in the name of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I fully expected to see that motion on the Order Paper, but it is absent. I submit that the proper practice would have been to print, verbatim, the text of that motion. To be fair to the Table officers, it may well have been assumed that, as a result of yesterday's proceedings, I wanted to leave the door open for changing or substituting a different motion. However, with great respect to the professionalism of the Table officers, they were not entitled to make that assumption. I submit that our Standing Orders and practices require that the text of that motion should have been printed today and that it was indeed

Point of Order—Mr. Nielsen

an innocent oversight in not having it so printed. Indeed, it might be my selection on the advice of my colleagues that I want the motion to remain there, now that it is public, for consideration on the allotted day that the government has altered to next Friday. There is nothing to prevent me, or any other opposition member, as soon as the notice appears in the back of the Order Paper, from filing with the Table a notice of motion immediately following the first appearance of that notice on the Order Paper.

For instance, in the case of this allotted day, it started appearing on the Order Paper a week ago today. On that Friday, any opposition member could have filed a notice of motion with the Table, and it seems to me our past practices would have compelled the printing of that motion on the following Monday, and on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Naturally, it is not printed the day before. Normal circumstances are that notice of the text of the motion on an allotted day is filed some time the day before, sometimes at noon or two o'clock or three o'clock, but as soon as it is filed, it is sent down and it appears on the next day's Order Paper.

I believe that the verbatim text of that motion was omitted, and it should be the ruling of the Chair, together with an order of the Chair, that it be printed until I choose to withdraw it, if I so choose between now and next Friday.

There is a further associated point to this whole matter. It relates to the Order Paper. That is, the right of the government, merely by verbal announcement, to alter an item appearing on the Order Paper.

● (1230)

In this case the government House leader made an announcement yesterday that today would not be an allotted day because there was more important legislation to be considered and that Bill C-78 was so important and urgent it had to replace our allotted day. By that announcement, today's Order Paper reflects two changes. It reflects a change on page 2 where the item of business is given a different date, and it is changed at the back of the Order Paper where notices normally appear, again changing the date.

I submit that the government has no right to take that unilateral action, and I submit again—with my own personal respect for the professional capabilities of the Table—that the Table has no right unilaterally to substitute one date for another. I say that with respect, but indeed that is what has happened.

In order to found my argument that neither the government House leader nor the Table has that right I will have to refer to the standing orders. The Chair referred to one of the Standing Orders yesterday, namely Standing Order 18. It reads:

All items standing on the orders of the day, except government orders, shall be taken up according to the precedence assigned to each on the Order Paper.

That is the purpose, of course, of having page 2 of the Order Paper set the business out day by day and under each day setting it out item by item. Standing Order 18(2) provides: