

the process rather than allow us all to participate without an easy excuse that there was no access to anybody who wanted to go.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** I have listened very carefully to the concerns that have motivated the hon. member for Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead and the others to take that stance.

[*English*]

I think it is a very helpful suggestion from the government House leader and I will look into the matter further. I treat it as a matter of some concern.

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### POINT OF ORDER

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS—SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** On Monday of this week the opposition House leader, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier, rose on a point of order concerning two items which the government placed on the Order Paper.

One was for the appointment of an information commissioner and the other was for the appointment of a privacy commissioner. The opposition House leader contends that the government erred in requesting that these items be placed under the rubric "Motions" in the Order Paper. He believes that they should have been placed under the rubric "Government Notices of Motions".

• (1510)

[*Translation*]

Several members, including the government House Leader, contributed to the discussion of this interesting point of order. The Chair thanks all hon. members for their contributions. I am now prepared to address the concerns raised and render a decision.

To many persons in our listening audience, it may appear irrelevant as to where a notice of motion is placed on our *Order Paper and Notice Paper*. It is important to note, however, that these categories have been developed over a lengthy period of time in order to respect the organization of the business of the House. Some categories are uniquely reserved for the government or the

### *Speaker's Ruling*

opposition, whereas others are reserved for private members and some very special categories are reserved for items which affect the transaction of the routine business of the House.

[*English*]

To illustrate matters, motions to amend or suspend the Standing Orders, to appoint special committees, to concur in committee reports, to instruct a committee to divide or consolidate bills are moved under the heading "Motions" and are often adopted by unanimous consent.

By contrast, motions to deal with matters of substance or government policy are moved under the heading "Government Motions". For example, motions to advance government bills or to adopt resolutions are handled under this heading and are usually adopted on division after extensive debate.

At this point I wish to refer to a decision I delivered on June 13, 1988 relating to a similar procedural problem. At page 16377 of *Hansard* I explained:

—a "Government Notice of Motion" is any motion that the Government gives notice of. In other words, a "Government Notice of Motion" is not based on the content of the motion, but rather upon the mover. In many cases, therefore, a notice of motion could go under more than one heading and it is up to the Minister giving notice to decide which heading should be chosen. Clearly a "Government Notice of Motion" can only be moved by the Government, but the Government can choose to place it either under "Motions" or under "Government Notices of Motion".

This concept is borne out in a ruling on May 16, 1985, by Speaker Bosley. He was called upon to rule on whether a time allocation motion had to be moved under "Motions" during Routine Proceedings or whether it could be placed under "Government Notices of Motion" and then transferred to "Government Orders". His decision was that it could be proceeded with in either way and that the choice was up to the Minister moving it.

[*Translation*]

A key element in the government House leader's argument concerned a definition of what items are permitted to be placed under the rubric "Motions". While no specific Standing Order enunciates exactly what should or should not be included under this rubric, Standing Order 67(1)(p) gives us a partial list. It reads, in part:

— [motions] as may be required for the observance of the proprieties of the House, the maintenance of its authority, the appointment or conduct of its officers, the management of its business, the arrangement of its proceedings, the correctness of its