

[Translation]

Regarding the point of order which was raised by the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) and the comments made by the president of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard), I note he commended the staff of the House for the tremendous work they have done since the report was tabled in this House and during the parliamentary recess. I would join him in this, because I know that this was a huge task, for which I am very thankful. They recognize as much as I do that this new book of rules is not perfect, it had to be put together fairly rapidly. Although the staff had very little time available, it is quite near perfection, but quite perfectible also. I could not agree more with the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich as far as the index is concerned. This book of rules is most difficult to consult. It is not possible to get along with only a table of contents when working with such a complex book of rules. An index should be provided that for instance would give an idea, under certain captions, of the motions that may or may not be debated, the length of speeches, the times and hours of adjournment and so forth, because we know what an index is. This is an absolute necessity, we must be in a position to use the Standing Orders fully and rapidly. So the index will be prepared, but there was not enough time available for the clerk and his staff to prepare it before this book went to press. However, the index prepared by the staff of the Library of Parliament will be updated including the changes, albeit provisional, which were made to the Standing Orders, and it will be made available to the Hon. Members as a separate item, so they use it pending publication of a final version of the Standing Orders of the House.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, I am sure there will be from time to time clarifications of your earlier comments. One that comes to mind, and perhaps you can address your attention to it, is the term "quoting poetry" or "reciting poetry". Within the context of a Member trying to make a 90-second statement, I think it would be in order to quote poetry if it is part of the statement that the Member is trying to make, rather than reciting, as the "bard of Red Deer" did on various occasions, his own poetry. I think there might be some latitude allowed there. In order to make a point, I suggest that there could be some brief quotation from poetry which fits in with the statement which the Member wants to make.

Madam Speaker: In these 90-second statements, if the Members says "as the poet said" and gives me one sentence of a quotation, I can accept that. But these statements may not be made in verse, no matter how pleasant they are to listen to. The idea is that these statements lasting only 90 seconds must be crisp, precise and concise, so the Member may have time to put a lot into those 90 seconds. Members will find out that one can put a lot into 90 seconds if the language is very strict and concise. I can accept a quotation of a line or two, but I guess that would be all.

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS ACT (NO. 2)

MEASURE TO MODIFY BENEFIT INDEX

The House proceeded to consideration of Bill C-133, an Act to amend the Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2), as reported, (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I want to rise on a point of order with respect to the calling of this legislation today and with respect to the right of Members of Parliament to file amendments prior to today but subsequent to the report of the Committee on December 22, 1982.

As the House knows from looking at *Votes and Proceedings* for December 22, 1982, the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates reported out Bill C-133 without amendment. We then broke for Christmas recess and we are back today, on January 17, 1983, and this is the first order of business called. The question arises as to whether or not it can be called in the event that there are amendments yet to be filed.

I want to tell the House that on January 11, 1983—before we came here—I delivered by hand to the deputy principal clerk of the Journals Branch two report stage amendments which he did not accept. I am not quarrelling with that, but he did not accept those amendments.

Mr. Nielsen: I will be.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): There may be others who will feel that he ought to have accepted them at that time and that they ought to have appeared on the Order Paper. In any event, he did not accept them and they did not appear on the Order Paper. Those amendments are still there and I would like them to be considered by the House. They are substantive amendments to the Bill.

The first one is to curtail the length of the application of the Act itself; the second one was put down for the purpose of assuring that after the period of limitation of indexing has been run, a superannuate, a person on a pension, will not have suffered any diminution of his pension rights as a result of that curtailment for the two-year period set forth in the Bill.

• (1150)

Those are the two amendments. The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) has one somewhat the same, but I felt it was important, the report state being what it is, that all Members of Parliament be able to express themselves, and that is what I wanted to do with respect to the appropriate amendments to this Bill. I want to have those amendments considered by the House, Madam Speaker. They were not accepted by the deputy principal clerk.