

be given for such an inquiry. Is it agreed that leave be given?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

RULES OF THE SENATE

EFFECTIVE DATE—AUTHORITY TO PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE

Hon. Hartland de M. Molson, with leave of the Senate, moved:

That the revised Rules of the Senate contained in the Schedule to the Fourth Report of the Special Committee of the Senate on the Rules of the Senate, as adopted by the Senate on December 10, 1968, as printed and distributed on June 3, 1969, shall come into force on August 1, 1969; and

That the said Rules be suitably bound and distributed as soon as practicable after the completion of an appendix of relevant forms of proceedings.

He said: Honourable senators, advance copies of the new Rules of the Senate have been in the hands of senators since June 3, and it was felt by the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Martin) that the date when these rules become effective should now be fixed. Honourable senators will remember that the rules were contained in the Schedule to the Fourth Report of the Special Committee of the Senate on the Rules of the Senate, amended in Committee of the Whole, and were adopted by this house, when it was ordered that they should be printed. It is contemplated that the summer adjournment will occur at the end of next week; therefore, it seems meaningless that the rules should become effective before that time. It is proposed that the date of August 1 next be selected for the rules to come into operation.

Rule 6 of the new rules reads as follows:

These rules shall go into operation on a day to be fixed by order of the Senate.

Hence, I have pleasure in moving this motion. In doing so, I do not think there is any reason, or in fact any excuse, for me to make another speech on the rules themselves, which after all were the fruit of very considerable thought, study and hard work by your committee, and were gone over one by one in Committee of the Whole.

I would, with your permission, like to make two brief comments, which I hope honourable senators will take in the spirit in

which they are offered. The first is to suggest that honourable senators read the rules through carefully in order that this chamber may continue in the orderly, well-paced and effective manner that it has developed over its century of experience. People the world over are today showing great impatience with rules, and there is a new and convenient tendency to suggest that conforming to rules is undemocratic. This, of course, is utter nonsense, because any activity devoid of rules is really an exercise in chaos.

Your committee believes that the rules as now adopted are workable, appropriate and simple. They help rather than hinder getting the business of the chamber done. We perhaps delude ourselves that in this chamber we live, by and large, by the rules. In fact, never a day goes by that we do not honour them in the breach. As my honourable friend Senator Grosart remarked a month ago, there is not much object in our having rules, because nobody pays any attention to them. I do not always agree with Senator Grosart, and I think perhaps I would not completely agree with him in this contention. Nevertheless, it is true that we are not too careful in observing our rules.

Let me give an elementary and simple example of what happens in the chamber. I think we must all have noticed the way in which we frequently address our remarks to Mr. Speaker. This really should only embarrass him, because Rule 25 says that we shall rise and address ourselves to the senators. The Speaker of the Senate, as I think we should be aware, is in a very peculiar position. Unlike the Speaker in the other place, he presides over our proceedings but he will not interfere, as a rule, unless a senator calls his attention to something he considers to be out of order. When we speak in this chamber, it is laid down and has always been the practice that we address our fellow senators. That is a very minor point and probably of no importance. I use it merely as an illustration that scarcely a day goes by without that rule being broken half a dozen times. The same applies to some extent in committees; frequently we either do not know the rules or perhaps know them and still break them.

The second comment I should like to make, again with your forbearance, is that the group who compiled this publication of the rules has done an excellent job in producing an index. The old rule book has an index, but I defy any one to look up a subject in it in less than 10 or 15 minutes. On this occasion