

*House of Commons Procedures*

on the Library of Parliament, so far as the interests of this House are concerned, and to act as members of the Joint Committee of both Houses to consist of 21 members;

provided that a sufficient number of members of joint committees shall be appointed so as to keep the same proportion in such committees as between the memberships of the House of Commons and Senate.

(3) A majority of the members of a standing committee shall constitute a quorum unless the House otherwise orders;

Provided that, in the case of a joint committee, the number of members constituting a quorum shall be such as the House of Commons acting in consultation with the Senate may determine.

(4) The Standing Committees shall be severally empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; to report from time to time their observations and opinions hereon; to send for persons, papers and records; and to print, from day-to-day, such papers and evidence as may be ordered by them, and Standing Order 66 shall not apply in relation thereto.

(5) Any member of the House of Commons who is not a member of a standing committee, may unless the House or the standing committee otherwise orders, take part in the deliberations of the standing committee, but shall not vote or move any motion or any amendment or be counted in the quorum.

11. That Standing Order 99 be amended to read as follows:

*Standing Order 99*

99. No Bill for the incorporation of a railway or canal company, or for authorizing the construction of branch lines or extensions of existing lines of railways or of canals, or for changing the route of the railway or of the canal of any company already incorporated, shall be considered by the Committee on Transport and Communications, until there has been filed with the committee, at least one week before the consideration of the bill, a map or plan drawn upon a scale of not less than half an inch to the mile, showing the location upon which it is intended to construct the proposed work, and showing also the lines of existing or authorized works of a similar character within, or in any way affecting the district, or any part thereof, which the proposed work is intended to serve; and such map or plan shall be signed by the engineer or other person making the same.

12. That Standing Order 105 be amended to read as follows:

*Standing Order 105*

105. Every private bill, when read a second time, is referred to one of the standing committees as follows: bills relating to banks, insurance, trade and commerce and to trust and loan companies, to the Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs; bills relating to railways, canals, telegraphs, canal and railway bridges, to the Committee on Transport and Communications; the bills not coming under these classes, to the Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills, and all petitions for or against the bills are considered as referred to such committee.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. When the Committee rose last night an amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Lapointe

was being considered. This amendment reads as follows:

That all the words after the word "decision" in line 4 of the proposed Standing Order 12, subclause 1, be deleted.

Is the Committee ready for the question?

• (3:50 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Chairman, there are a few comments I should like to make concerning resolution 15, and especially with regard to section 2, in support of the amendment moved yesterday by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire).

Mr. Chairman, before the house is called upon to vote on this amendment, I suggest that all members should examine carefully the provisions contained in section 2 of the said resolution, the purpose of which is to eliminate the right of appeal from rulings made by the Speaker.

If we had a permanent Speaker, we would be the first to vote in favour of section 2. But I would point out to the house that we are still governed by old principles. That is to say, the Speaker of this house does not hold a permanent post but is selected by a political party from among its own members and, consequently, he will often be inclined to go along with his party before considering an issue peculiar to a given area or group.

That is why we say it is not desirable at present to adopt the provisions of paragraph 2 of resolution 15, so long as we shall not have a permanent Speaker.

Mr. Chairman, we are told we should not question the honesty of a Speaker. I for one try not to have doubts about the honesty of the Speaker, but he has to be settled in his job and protected so that his honesty be preserved. I maintain that at the present time it is almost humanly impossible for a Speaker, considering the way he is appointed, to preserve his honesty a hundred per cent.

Mr. Chairman, they must not take us for mugs. When a man is elected within his party, when he is chosen by a party for the Speakership, it is logical, it is human—you cannot fool us, we were not born yesterday—he will always be inclined to go along with his party.

As for his impartiality, we wonder if he is well conditioned to be truly impartial. I realize that the present Speaker and his deputy—whom I wish to congratulate—endeavour by all possible means to be fair, but on some occasions, the impartiality of a Speaker does not simply depend on his will;