

Speaker's Rulings and Statements – (Continued)*Committees, Standing; Reports – (Concluded)*

On a point of order raised on March 25, when the order for concurrence in the fifth report of the standing committee on Transport and Communications was called, after objection taken as to the appropriate time in proceedings to discuss procedural aspects, Mr. Speaker ruled that it was in order to question the form of the committee report before the motion was put. He suggested motion be stood to give members an opportunity to discuss substance of points raised by the President of the Privy Council, 854-5. On order being called, after arguments advanced, Mr. Speaker ruled that it was not the duty of the Chair to judge if report offends statute or clause thereof, as the matter may be dealt with by the House itself by means of a motion. As to irregularity of committee proceedings, there is no reference in the report and it is not competent for this House to go back of the report which is now in its possession. Although wording of recommendation is a departure from established practice it is accepted at this time as it is tantamount to the normal form, but should changes from the usual procedures come in question the matter could be considered by the Procedure Committee, therefore motion for concurrence could now be put, 873-4.

On motion for concurrence in Transport and Communications Committee fifth report Mr. Allmand moved an amendment to refer back to Committee to delete recommendation concerning suspended rail passenger service in Newfoundland. After point of order raised by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre), Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled that report of a Committee is considered final only when adopted by House, and until then can be referred back with instructions to amend in any particular, therefore amendment in order, 880.

During debate on the motion of Mr. Blair for concurrence in the third report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, a point of order was raised by Mr. Baldwin that the proposed Standing Order 75-A was not consistent with the constitutional provision that questions arising in the House shall be decided by a majority of voices. Mr. Speaker stated that it was not the duty of the Chair to rule on points of law and constitutional matters, and that the point of order might be more properly advanced as a point of debate, 1319-20.

On motion for concurrence in Procedure and Organization Committee third report, Mr. Deachman proposed a subamendment by adding certain words, 1333-4. Mr. Speaker ruled the subamendment out of order on the grounds that it went beyond the scope of the amendment, 1334.

During debate on the motion of Mr. Blair for concurrence in the third report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, a point of order was raised by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) that the proposed motion was contrary to the rights and privileges of Parliament and should be so declared by Mr. Speaker under provisions of S.O. 51. Mr. Speaker stated that the duty of the Chair was to rule according to the rules the House adopts, and that he was not prepared to substitute his judgment and ruling for that of the House, 1397-9.

Committees, Standing; Reports—Amendments:

During debate on the motion for concurrence in the fifth report of the Transport and Communications Committee, Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) moved that the report be amended by deleting the fourth paragraph, 879. On a point of order, Mr. Speaker ruled the amendment defective and out of order, 880.

Documents, Tabling of, etc.:

On a question of privilege raised by Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Speaker ruled that while S.O. 41(2) provides for the tabling of documents relating to ministerial responsibilities, it does not provide for the tabling of a report in response to questions asked orally, therefore the question of privilege was justified, 655-7.

On a question of privilege being raised by Mr. Baldwin re tabling of notice of Ways and Means motion to amend the Income Tax Act and the Estate Tax Act, Mr. Speaker ruled that matter was within administrative responsibility of government in view of S.O. 41(2), however, Procedure and Organization Committee could review particular S.O., if interpretation beyond its original intent, 655-7.

Government Motions:

The order being called on the proposed motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) to amend S.O. 75, Mr. Baldwin raised a point of order that the motion was substantially the same as recommendations in the third report of the Procedure and Organization Committee and should not be proceeded with until the report had been disposed of. Mr. Speaker deferred his decision and directed that the motion stand, 1283-4. Mr. Speaker ruled that it is not contrary to the rules