Security Intelligence Service

Mr. Deans: The fact that the Government is up-tight and the Table is giving bad advice to the Chair ought not to put the Chair in an embarrassing position.

Mr. Speaker: In reply to the Hon. Member, the Chair would state that we have changed neither the Standing Orders nor the practice relating—

Mr. Deans: We have changed the book.

Mr. Speaker: We have not changed as far as petitions are concerned. We often use earlier editions of procedural manuals, including Bourinot published in 1916. As far as the Chair is concerned, the practice relating to petitions in this House has not changed in the period between the Fourth and the Fifth Editions of Beauchesne.

The Chair quoted the Fourth Edition of Beauchesne, being, in the opinion of the Chair, a more careful and considered statement of the practice of the House and more relevant to the issue before us.

In the circumstances, the Chair has made a decision regarding the presentation of petitions and procedures that, in the judgment of the Chair, bordered upon a threat to the orderly conduct of the business of this House.

Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-9, an Act to establish the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, to enact an Act respecting enforcement in relation to certain security and related offences and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof or in relation thereto, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs; and Motion No. 1 (Mr. Robinson) (Burnaby).

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, when we adjourned at one o'clock I was pointing out that Canadians knew very little about the activities of the security service until the then Corporal Samson of the Security Section of the RCMP was involved in an attempted bombing during which he injured himself. When he was brought to trial he blurted out that what he had done was something that was done quite frequently by the security service in conducting its operations.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In the past I have drawn to the attention of the Chair that report stage debate or even third reading debate, when there have been no amendments put in committee which are being changed by the Government or when there are no notices of amendments on the Order Paper, starts within 48 hours after

the presentation of the Chairman's report. However, there is no proper printed record of the evidence as put forward before the committee, of the discussions which took place therein, available to Hon. Members of the House. If there is one thing which has to be done, if committee work is to mean anything, it is that Hon. Members have the full evidence of what went on before the committee.

• (1540)

The Chair has allowed the debate to start and, with the greatest respect, the Chair is responsible for the administration and the services to Members. It is the Chair's responsibility to ensure, through the administration, that all Hon. Members of the House have copies of the printed evidence of any committee hearing which forms part of a chairman's report. Unless that is done it is an abuse, and I say a transgression, of the privileges of Hon. Members of the House.

As a matter of fact, upon reflection, I would think that I am speaking more on a point of privilege than on a point of order because I am prevented from participating in this debate as are all Hon. Members unless they happen to be the chairman of the committee who has a copy of the rough "blues" of the evidence as taken before the committee. Therefore, we cannot do our work properly. I do not know what went on in that committee. Even the press does not know what went on in that committee. Therefore, I suggest that it is improper at this stage to take part in this debate without the administration of the House bringing forward the record of the evidence before the committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): The Chair has well received the point made by the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) and appreciates it. Of course, the Chair is in no position at this stage to ascertain whether the allegation is true or false. The Chair has every intention of investigating it. Debate at the present time is continuing, and while it continues the Chair will take the matter under advisement and report as quickly as possible.

Mr. Lambert: I should not question the Chair-

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): The Hon. Member must have an additional point of order. On an additional point of order, the Hon. Member for Edmonton West.

Mr. Lambert: Yes, the additional point is that if this is an abuse of privileges and the debate continues while a routine administrative inquiry, shall we say, is made, then that is a further abuse of the privilege of the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): It should be abundantly apparent to the Hon. Member that the Chair at the present time has no way of telling whether his allegations are true or false. When a debate such as this is continuing, there is no way that the Chair can stop debate in order to find out whether what the Member said is true or false. The matter will be taken under advisement and we will let the House know as quickly as possible what has been found out by the Chair.