

*Point of Order—Mr. Waddell*

**An hon. Member:** Let's have a response.

**Mr. Knowles:** Can't we have an answer in *Hansard*?

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**POINTS OF ORDER****MR. TAYLOR—RULING OF ACTING SPEAKER ON SECOND READING DEBATE**

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Madam Speaker, I have a point of order involving Citation 712 appearing at page 220 of *Beauchesne's* fifth edition. In reference to second reading it states in part:

At this stage, debate is not strictly limited to the contents of a bill—

On Friday the Acting Speaker, (Mr. Ethier) was in the chair and he ruled during second reading of the elections bill we had to confine our remarks to the bill's contents. I suggest this is contrary to *Beauchesne*, contrary to our rules and I would appreciate your ruling.

**Madam Speaker:** That point of order, if it was valid, should have been raised at the time this occurred. It is very difficult for the Chair to rule on a point of order when I personally was not in the chair. The matter should have been raised on Friday if the occurrence took place on Friday.

**Mr. Taylor:** Madam Speaker, I endeavoured to raise it on Friday, but the Acting Speaker would not hear it.

**Madam Speaker:** He probably had his reasons for not hearing it. Surely at the time the hon. member had other recourse by which he might have been heard by the Chair. The matter should have been settled on Friday, not today.

**Mr. Taylor:** I do not want to continue the debate, Madam Speaker, but I do want to say that I endeavoured to raise it. I suggested that the ruling was wrong at the time but the Chair would not listen.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Those comments on rulings by the Chair should not be made, as the hon. member knows. The hon. member is now showing me *Beauchesne*. The interpretation is made by the Chair; that interpretation was made on Friday and we cannot come back to it.

**MR. WADDELL—REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, today is an opposition day dealing with energy and the speakers include both opposition critics in the energy area. At the same time the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works is meeting to consider the very important bill, C-48. It is obviously impossible for the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) and myself to be in both places at the same time. I wonder if through you the minister, who is also in the House—and we want to hear him speak as well—would indicate whether this committee meeting could be

postponed. Apparently the government will not do that. If this were done we could at least complete three or four speeches in the debate in the House.

**Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, this event was brought to my attention early this morning. I did have consultations with my colleague, the hon. member for Etobicoke North (Mr. MacLaren), the parliamentary secretary to the minister, and I understand either the minister or the parliamentary secretary will be at the committee, that the steering committee scheduled these meetings and the opposition knew full well that these meetings were scheduled before the motion was put down on Friday for the opposition day. So really there should be no excuse for this kind of intervention at this particular point in time.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** On the same point of order, Madam Speaker, I listened to what the parliamentary secretary has just said and I should like to make one point very clear. He may not be aware of it, but I advised the parliamentary secretary and the chairman of the committee that we did have an opposition day and that two meetings on one day was totally unrealistic. I asked at that stage that the committee hold one meeting today. I said we would be prepared to have one meeting today, but not two in view of the fact that members would be required to attend both places.

I ask you, Madam Speaker, whether you could prevail on members on the other side to bring some order into this issue. I should also let you know, and you are not aware of this, that the committee has asked for 12 meetings a week. We have many other responsibilities as members of Parliament, and that is also totally unrealistic. We have tried to impress upon the minister the desirability of moving this bill ahead in a measured way, but not in a way unrealistic to members of Parliament.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member, I am sure, must realize that I am in no position to prevail upon the chairman or the members of that committee to reschedule meetings. This is entirely the responsibility of the chairman and the committee. These circumstances occur quite often, but the Chair is in no position to change the scheduling of committee meetings.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****DISPOSITION OF BILL C-48**

**Mr. Waddell:** On another point of order, Madam Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council to indicate to the House whether the government is preparing a debate on Bill C-48 before the session finishes, I gather around the beginning of July? Is it the minister's intention to have that bill back before the House? We have only considered ten clauses out of 80 in committee. Perhaps the minister might indicate to the House that instead it is the government's intention to deal with that bill in the fall.