

Standing Orders and Procedure

Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). In this case, however, I suggest to him that he may continue to use the expression Dominion Day, but that as a law abiding citizen, he should know that there is no such thing as Dominion Day any more. What we now have is Canada Day.

Madam Speaker: But the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) should know that this issue was not at all raised in the report tabled in the House. The Committee had not requested a change of name for that particular holiday. Therefore, the change could not be proposed by the Clerk of the House as a result of the Committee's suggestion. If the Committee wishes at some later date to deal with this issue and submit a proposal to the House, a change could be made. But the Clerk of the House was not in a position to carry it out.

[English]

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, I rise with respect to a completely different point of order with reference to the appearance of the new version of the so-called Permanent and Provisional Standing Orders. I note some contradiction between the words "permanent" and "provisional" as found in a title for Standing Orders. I would like to express my disappointment that, even after a notification of at least five years' duration, there is still no index in the Standing Orders.

Mr. Nielsen: It is coming.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): My recollection is that at least five years ago, in the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, there was a request by myself and others as well that there should be attached to the Standing Orders an index, which is different from a table of contents. I managed, through the courtesy of the Table, to obtain an index which had been prepared by the reference branch of the Library and which gives the reference by Standing Order number to the various subject matters which are dealt with in the Standing Orders. I had hoped that in any new edition, and in this one, because it is a completely new edition, permanent and provisional though it is, there would be an index included at the end.

Just as an example, length of speeches figures nine times on the little index that I have in my possession. There have been changes in the length of speeches. For example, on the Speech from the Throne or on second or third reading, there may be different times concerning the length of speeches. That is all to be found in the table of contents if one looks seriously enough.

However, it would be so much simpler if, in the index, there were items to be found such as "Speeches, length of" or something of that sort, in reference to each of the various chapters or Standing Orders. I do hope that another edition of this volume of Standing Orders, be it permanent or provisional or permanent and provisional, will not come out without an

index. I implore the Chair to lean on the Table that that be done.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, in fairness to those who helped prepare these permanent and provisional Standing Orders, it should be pointed out that the matter of an index was raised when we met with the Clerk of the House, during the adjournment. We were explained this involved a tremendously long work, and since there was limited time could not be done in the context of the changes made. However, I want to commend all those who helped prepare these Standing Orders, because they did a really tremendous job, even though it may not be perfect, and no doubt some aspects will be debated later on. However, within the time available, those people succeeded in setting down the old and new Standing Orders. They even included a table of contents. They also added a concordance, at our own request, in the margin. We have the comparison between the old and new sections, and it would be inhuman to demand at this point that an index be prepared for what is in fact an experiment, to last one year only, because no doubt other changes will be made. Therefore, I would ask the Hon. Member to be patient, understanding and thankful to those who endeavoured to serve Hon. Members in the best possible way, I congratulate all those who took part in that work, and I hope that the changes made will not face too negative a reaction. I appreciate that some Hon. Members may be unwilling to accept change, which raises all sorts of questions. But this is a matter of parliamentary spirit, an experiment to be made, and I think this is more than a minimum and we should proceed as soon as possible.

• (1140)

[English]

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, the index is at least partially prepared in this paper by the reference branch of the Library of Parliament. It is there; it is ready. The only thing that is lacking is a concordance between the old Standing Orders and the new Provisional and Permanent Standing Orders. That should not take more than five years. It has taken at least five years to get even that much of it in print. I do implore you, for the assistance of all Members of Parliament, to provide that there be an index in the next edition of that little green book, whatever it is called.

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I rise on the same point of order regarding Standing Order 21. You mentioned a time period of 90 seconds, and I wonder whether it was Your Honour's intention, in order to help bring this House into the computer age, to instal a seconds clock, as is done in certain professional sports.

Madam Speaker: Just for the information of the Hon. Member, we will have a manual seconds clock. It will be 90 seconds, I can assure the Hon. Member of that.