

*Point of Order—Mr. Knowles*

decorum, but if you want to look up phrases that are unparliamentary you have to go to the citations in *Beauchesne* or other books. In other words, our practices are governed more by the practices of the past, by the traditions, the things that have been found to work, than they are by the precise Standing Orders.

I suggest, Madam Speaker, that *Hansard* being a document in which only those speeches that have been made are printed, is in that same category. For the full 100 years of *Hansard* in this House, that has been our tradition. The cover of *Hansard* says "House of Commons Debates", not "House of Commons Essays". It is not House of Commons speeches that have been prepared and handed in. It is a booklet called "House of Commons Debates".

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles:** I know that on many occasions there have been requests for a speech to be put in *Hansard* even though it had not been delivered, and I can yet hear Mackenzie King objecting: I hear St. Laurent in particular saying: Is that not an American custom that we do not want in this place? We have never done it. I say there it is, Madam Speaker, and that makes Citation 311 just as much a part of the rules of procedure of this House as are the citations regarding parliamentary language on which you have to rely, as are the citations regarding naming members, which has to be done once in awhile, as are the citations about privilege or points of order or the ringing of the bells. Indeed, though I have contended that we are governed by citations as much as we are by rules, I would point out that Standing Order 1 does say that:

● (2020)

In all cases not provided for hereafter or by sessional or other orders, the usages and customs of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as in force at the time shall be followed so far as they may be applicable to this House.

I say that in Britain, where they have had *Hansard* much longer than have we, there has never been a deviation from the rule that the only speeches printed in *Hansard* are those that were delivered. As a matter of fact, they do not even permit the appendices and things like that which we add at the back of our copies of *Hansard*. They are as strict as citation 311 says, that under no circumstances may speeches which have not been delivered be put into *Hansard*.

I contend that this is a violation of a tradition of 100 years in this House, and longer in Britain. I maintain that it is just as much a part of our rules as are the things that had to be contended with today: privilege, points of order, ringing of the bells and unparliamentary language. All of these things are governed by the citations and by the practices, and we should stay with them. The same is true about the printing of speeches.

I think I have fairly well kept my promise not to get into the merits of the issue as to whether or not it is a good idea. I am sticking to this as a point of order. I believe Your Honour

should rule that paragraph (e) at the end of this motion, which would permit speeches to be handed in and printed in *Hansard*, is out of order. As I say, it is not an attempt to change the rules on a permanent basis. Neither is it something that has been put there as a sessional order because there has been consultation with the other parties—there has been no such consultation.

I note in respect of other things that are being set aside for the purposes of this motion that there is a reference to orders that need to be changed, there is the word "notwithstanding" and so on. We find references to Standing Order 6(1) and Standing Order 40; somewhere else there is the word "notwithstanding", and so forth. But when it comes to this departure from a century's practice, there is not even the word "notwithstanding". There is not any suggestion that this change in the rules is one to which the House should consent.

Therefore, I contend that we should not have to debate this when we get to the motion. This is why I sought to raise the point of order right away, even before Your Honour put the motion. I contend that Your Honour should rule paragraph (e) out of order and that it should be stricken from the motion now before the House.

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is my neighbour and co-conspirator in the ownership of a snowblower. Sometimes he is a passenger in my car on the way to work, and sometimes I am a passenger in his car going home. Members of this House should know that despite that, from time to time we have differences of opinion. We are, nonetheless, neighbours and friends. I also have occasion to agree with him from time to time. As I indicated to him privately earlier in the day, I intend to argue the point he has made, but I also told him that there are other aspects of this motion which are quite important from the point of view of this House.

Before I get into the merits of the argument, I want to say there is one thing that is absolutely important in respect of this question, and that is the matter of the long traditions of the House of Commons regarding the rules. It is true that before rule changes are made there is consultation in respect of those changes. It is true sometimes that consultation takes the form of private meetings where specific things are brought forward by one House leader to another, and there are debates in the House. As a result of the debates and the references therefrom matters are sent to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization. The whole House of Commons, not just the opposition House leader and not just the House leader of a third party, knows precisely what is intended by the government as a result of the speeches and the debate which occurred in the House of Commons.

In this case and with respect to this order the whole House of Commons did not know. We certainly knew of the impatience of the government. That impatience is not surprising. We knew of that, but the uncommon thing about this is that up until the announcement downstairs in this building in Room 130S not even the opposition House leader or the House