

Point of Order—Mr. Prud'homme

been conveyed to us and I suggest that the Chair ought to read the entire message before we go on to something else.

[English]

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order simply to put in a caveat with respect to the point raised by the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) about messages between the two Houses. I do not want to get involved in a protracted procedural argument at this point in time but, as Your Honour is aware, I think it is the tradition, custom and convention of the two Houses of Parliament that they do not reflect upon the decisions of the other place.

With respect to messages that are received in the normal way dealing with amendments or other procedural or substantive matters relating to Bills, of course there is an established practice that has developed.

I would simply suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that when you are looking at this particular matter, it would set a very dangerous precedent indeed if we were to start sending little love letters between the Houses dealing with our views of the truth as we see it in each place.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order because I was the principal critic of the Bill when it was before the House. In this situation, the Senate has not amended the Bill, has not defeated the Bill but has respected conventions and has passed the Bill recognizing the role of the House of Commons as the elected body in Canada. However, it has in a way put forward its views in this message. It has attempted to convey to the House its dissatisfaction with the Bill.

I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to have the message printed in *Hansard*. To my way of thinking, that would be a way of providing better accommodation between the two Houses considering that there is a majority held by one Party in one House and there is a majority held by another Party in the other House. That would be a reasonable accommodation considering that this is the elected House and the other is not. I think that would be a very reasonable approach to the problem.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I would simply ask you to check to see if messages of this kind from the other place have been read to the House before. If I am correct—and I may not be correct—you may find such a precedent, and if you do, I think it is a precedent which must be followed. The matter of the relationship between the two Houses and the suggestion of the government House Leader of the other place reflecting on this place are not at issue. It is simply a question of whether this has been done before. If it has, it should be done again.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that we have to spend so much time on a matter such as this. I would like to suggest that the whole thing could be resolved if the Government would take our advice and abolish the Senate.

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I notice that the full text of the message has been made public. It is contained in the edition of *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, June 26. This being the case, it seems to be a reasonable way of dealing with the matter. There is no necessity for it to be recorded in *Hansard* because it is in *Votes and Proceedings*.

● (1210)

Mr. Speaker: I thank Hon. Members for their interventions. The matter has been absolutely dealt with in the traditional House way.

To answer the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray), such messages are often printed in our *Votes and Proceedings* when they are received from the Senate. The ones which are verbally read to the House are usually notices of an indication that Royal Assent will occur later that day, in order to inform the House that that is what will happen. Many times in the past these messages have been received from the Senate and printed in *Votes and Proceedings*. This is the way we have handled it before.

If Hon. Members are asking me to review whether there is a point of order with regard to whether it should be printed there—in fact it has become the practice—I would be happy to review that practice, but I see no point of order.

Is the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) rising on a separate point of order?

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TRIBUTE

RETIREMENT OF JEAN DRAPEAU

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the House will not object if I take just a short moment to render homage to Jean Drapeau, a long-service Mayor of Montreal who just announced his retirement. His fabulous personality will be long remembered and missed for many years to come.

[Translation]

Long live Jean Drapeau who has served Montreal, his province and his country so well!