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OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OF CANADA

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1959.

2.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Before calling the Orders of the Day, may I be permitted a minute to deal with a matter which arose yesterday and also to make a correction in yesterday's *Hansard*. At the foot of page 1367, the first column, I commented on the procedure in asking that written or starred questions be made Orders for Returns, and I think I incorrectly stated the effect of the rule—incidentally it is Standing Order 39(5)—when I said "It is so ordered, then, that this question be made an Order for Return. Consent of the House is not necessary."

The rule, as honourable Members will see, says that the Minister, having expressed a willingness to lay a return upon the table, his statement shall, unless otherwise ordered by the House, be deemed an order of the House. I did not want the record to be erroneous in the conclusion as to the effect of Standing Order 39.

Another point on the same rule was raised by the honourable Member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier), who suggested a starred question could not be made an Order for Return under this rule. I find I was correct in rejecting that view. The authority for so doing is the Report of the Special Committee appointed to consider with Mr. Speaker the Procedure of the House of Commons dated Tuesday, June 14, 1955, which was accepted by the House and states that Standing Order 39(5) contains a consequential amendment in respect of questions, starred and unstarred, passed as Orders for Returns. This would clear up that point.