Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. OSCAR L. BOULANGER (Bellechasse) (Translation): Mr. Chairman, you will not be astonished should I make use of my maternal tongue in making my bow in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger) has the floor.

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Is it not a rule of the House that speakers shall be heard alternately in relation to their position?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no such rule.

Mr. HEAPS: Is it not the custom?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That custom has been followed, but in this instance I saw the hon. member for Bellechasse first.

Mr. HEAPS: Did Mr. Speaker look on this side?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellechasse has the floor.

Mr. HEAPS: May I make a motion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Mr. HEAPS: If I may, I move that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) be declared to have the floor.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEAPS: May I move that motion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman is in order in making such a motion.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no motion.

Mr. CASGRAIN: The hon. member for Bellechasse had the floor and he is entitled to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I first saw the member for Bellechasse and he has the right to the floor.

Mr. BOULANGER (Translation): As I had just stated, you will not be astonished should I make use of my maternal tongue in making my debut in this House. However, I have no apologies to make for speaking French here, it is an acknowledged right and we esteem it an honour to claim that right, when the opportunity presents itself, because there are privileges which may be forgotten by disuse. I had no intention to take part in this debate but certain phases were introduced into the discussion which interest me. I do not know if—

Mr. HEAPS: I rise to a point of order. A few moments ago I moved that the floor be given to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and I should like to know on what ground that motion was rejected by Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I am sorry that this unfortunate incident has occurred but my hon. friend is obviously out of order. So far as I can recollect, when two members rise at the same time the one whom the Speaker first sees proceeds, but there may be a motion to give the floor to the other member. In this case, however, the member for Bellechasse had the floor. He had begun to deliver his speech when my hon. friend from North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) made his motion, a minute or two afterwards. Surely it would be contrary to the rules to entertain such a motion.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: May I say that I rose before the hon. member opposite? I was standing and had begun to address the Chair before he rose to speak.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It is, I think, a fairly well understood practice in this House that the debate shall alternate. An hon. member had spoken on the other side and naturally I expected that I should have the opportunity next on this side. I was prepared, and contrary to all ordinary customs and courtesies of the House, the Speaker deliberately turned—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: —to the hon. gentleman on the other side.

Mr. CASGRAIN: May I say a few words on the subject? There is no point of order and what my hon. friend has said is not within the rules of the House. The point that was discussed was this, whether the hon. gentleman who has resumed his seat (Mr. Woodsworth) or my hon. friend from Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger) was the one who was seen first. I was sitting on this side of the House and I know very well that the hon. member for Bellechasse was the first to get up and to be recognized by the Deputy Speaker. The Deputy Speaker declared that he had seen the hon. member for Bellechasse before observing the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the matter is therefore settled. The member for Bellechasse has the floor and I do not see why the member for Winnipeg North Centre should be allowed to come in and raise a point of order. At any rate the point of order has