

**Speaker's Rulings and Statements - (Continued)***Bills, Public (Private Members); Introduction and First Reading:*

On the 7th sitting day of the Session when the first list of Private Members Public Bills appeared for Introduction on the Order Paper, Mr. Speaker stated that all such Bills would be scrutinized for defects prior to the second reading stage because the Chair was not yet in a position to review them to judge their acceptability under the rules, and in order to save time all Bills will be deemed to have been introduced and given first reading, 54.

*Budget Debate Amendments:*

See ruling under heading *Ways and Means (Budget)*.

*Cabinet Ministers, Attendance in House during Question Period:*

On a question of privilege raised by Mr. MacInnis, Mr. Speaker deferred his decision until the next sitting, 125. Mr. Speaker referring to a previous ruling on June 1, 1966, *Hansard*, page 3756, ruled that questions to Ministers must relate to departments for which they have a responsibility or an acting responsibility, and not as a representative of a province, etc., and that a member cannot insist on an answer. He further ruled that the question of privilege was not raised at the first opportunity and the motion following was a substantive motion, requiring notice, therefore was not acceptable, 132-4.

*Chairman's Decisions Appealed:*

During debate in Committee of the Whole on Bill C-111 (Farm Improvement Loans Act amendment), Mr. Horner proposed an amendment to clause 1. Mr. Bechard (Deputy Chairman) ruled the amendment out of order, upon which objection was taken and an appeal made to Mr. Speaker pursuant to provisional S.O. 59(4), 118. Mr. Speaker ruled that the amendment affects the conditions and qualifications set out in the resolution, therefore he confirmed the Chairman's decision, 119.

*Closure of Debate:*

A point of order being raised by Mr. Aiken as to the validity of the motion proposed by Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) for closure of debate on the motion for concurrence in the Procedure and Organization Committee third report and the amendment thereto, Mr. Speaker ruled that as all precedents support the viewpoint that any amendment to a main motion comes under the provisions of the cut-off time set out in S.O. 33, the point of order could not be accepted, 1393-6.

*Committees, Special; Reports:*

On a point of order raised by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) on Dec. 9, 1968, suggesting that the motion for concurrence in the Procedure Committee's fourth report should be debated in Committee of the Whole rather than with Speaker in Chair, Mr. Speaker ruled that he did not have power to determine such a procedure, and that the scope for debate is as great with the Speaker in the Chair as it is in Committee of the Whole, 511-3.

*Committees, Staff and Facilities:*

On a question of privilege raised by Mr. Laprise on Oct. 31, 1968, protesting against the lack of committee personnel and facilities, Mr. Speaker stated that in co-operation with House officials, steps would be taken with a view to improving the situation, 197.

*Committees, Standing; Reports:*

On motion for concurrence in External Affairs and National Defence Committee second report, Mr. Fairweather proposed an amendment to the report by adding paragraphs 10 and 11, 394. Mr. Speaker stated that he was allowing the amendment because of the wording in the special order which set up the debate on the report, but that this should not be considered a precedent, 394.

Mr. McGrath rose on a question of privilege concerning the omission of a resolution from second report of Transport and Communications Committee and proposed to move,—That the matter be referred to Privileges and Elections Committee, 513. Mr. Speaker questioned the wisdom of one committee examining the affairs of another, however, on the question before the Chair there was a *prima facie* case of privilege, 513.