

threw journalists in the slammer with neither trial nor presumption of innocence—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!
• (1500)

ACTIONS OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but say that my father, who was then a Member of this House, was one of 16 Members who had the courage to stand up and oppose the War Measures Act.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brewin: It was the Conservatives who did not have the political courage to join with the New Democrats on that occasion and vote against the War Measures Act.

Let me turn to the issue at hand. We have heard today an amazing admission from the Minister of Justice to whom my question is addressed. The Minister of Justice has said in the House this afternoon that despite a most serious claim emanating from Toronto about an intervention by his senior deputy in this unprecedented case that he has simply refused to find out what that conversation was about, who said what to whom and what was done. Are we to conclude then that it is the philosophy of this Government simply to hear no evil, see no evil and speak no evil?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, is the policy of this Government not to interfere in police investigations.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS—DIRECTIONS TO RCMP

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, was it the policy of this Government even before this investigation started? Let us go back to the night of Wednesday, April 26. You were there. We were all there. An RCMP investigation was launched. I want to ask whether at the outset of that investigation, this Government directed the RCMP that whatever else happened, it was not to interfere with the freedom of the press and freedom of Canadians in this investigation?

Business of the House

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I respectfully suggest that any comment on the particular case in question would be sub judice.

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ANNOTATED STANDING ORDERS

USE IN PROCEDURAL ARGUMENTS

Mr. Speaker: I want to bring to the attention of the House interventions from the floor of the House by the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) on April 27 and on May 30 by the Member for Kamloops (Mr. Riis). They may have caused some confusion on the question of whether annotations from the *Annotated Standing Orders* may be quoted in procedural arguments. I have also received private communications on this subject from Members.

It has never been my intention, even in private discussions, to imply that the text of the *Annotated Standing Orders* could not or should not be quoted. Members may find that an annotation supports their interpretation of a particular Standing Order and may choose to quote the annotation in their argument. On the other hand, a Member who may want to argue for a different approach than that contained in the *Annotated Standing Orders* is entirely at liberty to do so.

In brief, just as other parliamentary authorities, for example, Beauchesne, Bourinot or May, are invoked by Members to support their arguments, so too the *Annotated Standing Orders* offers Members a rich new source of information on Canadian parliamentary practice to draw from.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Government House Leader to give us a statement of business for the coming week.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties. I would like to indicate that the business plan is as follows: Tomorrow, Friday, June 2, we will deal with second reading of Bill C-13. That is the Nordion Bill. We will follow that up with second reading of Bill C-16, the Space Agency. On Monday, June 5, we will deal with a Bill in the name of the Minister of Energy, Bill C-19. That is second