

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** That is what he said.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Divine right.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. As is so often the case, as we get further away from the core of these procedural questions we get into greater danger. If I am not mistaken, I thought I heard the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) say that a statement made earlier this afternoon by another member was dishonest. Obviously we are complicating this matter very greatly and I think we have to be very careful.

I wonder if the House would not realize that in the circumstances it would be a very dangerous practice for the Chair, as a matter of practice, to indicate in some preliminary way that there may be some question here but the parties ought to go out and gather more evidence in support of their relative positions. That, as a matter of practice, is a matter of great danger.

I think we have to recognize the rather fundamental point that the burden of proving an allegation at the time it is made is upon the person making it. If you produce the material at that particular time, that is fine. If an unanswered point arises in the discussion and a member claims he was not prepared for it and would like to make some answer at a later time or asks the Chair to reserve and give a chance for further argument, that I can understand.

I think it would be dangerous for the Chair to make a preliminary finding of some sort now on the basis of evidence that may be produced. What I have to say now is that there has been a suggestion of sorts but obviously it has not been made with precision because I have no language in front of me that I can look upon and say it constitutes something upon which I can make a decision. If that language does in fact exist, I think I would be acting fairly; our procedures ought not to be too rigid in this regard. I think it would be safer to say that in the present circumstances, and in view of the arguments presented up to the present time, I cannot, in the absence of any precise language, make a finding. For the moment, therefore, I think I ought to set this matter aside.

I do this with leave to the hon. member, if he so wishes, to raise it at some time with something that may not have yet come to his attention but does in the interval, or something of that sort. I ought not to put procedural bars in his way that would at that time at least prevent him from raising it. At this time the sensible course is not for me to say, "Yes, I have some difficulty here because there is a lack of precision, a lack of evidence; what I will do is hold it open for the evidence to arrive." I think that is a dangerous procedure. Therefore I have to say, since I have no specific language in front of me at the moment, that I cannot make a finding and I have to set this matter aside on that basis at the present time.

*Business of the House*  
**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[*English*]

**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Second report of Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs—Mr. Railton.

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[*Translation*]

**BANK ACT AND QUEBEC SAVINGS BANKS ACT**  
AMENDMENT TO EXTEND OPERATION TO APRIL 1, 1980

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-49, to amend the Bank Act and the Quebec Savings Banks Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[*English*]

**CANADA PORTS ACT**

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-50, respecting Canadian ports.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

ALLOTMENT OF TIME TO CONSIDER REPORT AND THIRD READING STAGES OF BILL C-42

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 75C, I wish to advise the House that the representatives of parties have been unable to reach agreement under Standing Order 75A or 75B on the allocation of time on report stage and third reading of Bill C-42, an act to provide a means to conserve the supplies of energy within Canada during periods of national emergency caused by shortages or market disturbances affecting the national security and welfare and the economic stability of Canada.

Therefore, I wish to give notice that a minister will move, at the next sitting of the House, that not more than one additional day be allocated, if necessary, to each of the said stages of the said bill.

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**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 942, 1,112, 1,119 and 1,120.