

cannot intrude into the workings of the board, nor would it be proper for me to comment thereon.

What I have explained to the hon. members is that if the board does not wish to give additional funds to a group within the Chamber, that is the board's decision. If the House wishes to overrule the board, that is enough.

Out of respect for objections which are about to be raised in the House—and I know they are coming—I think hon. members will have to accept the judgment. If they wish to raise it again at another time or in another way, please use enough inventiveness to not be challenging the judgment in its particular form.

[Translation]

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, not in connection with your first ruling, but with your second. Since you have recognized that our hon. friend has the right to be designated as he wishes, could you tell us if we should formally advise the House of our intention to be designated as members of the *Bloc québécois*? Could you tell us exactly what is the procedure in this respect?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: With respect to the application of the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants, it would be immediate. I am sure that hon. members might wish to *avoir une discussion avec la Table*.

Sometimes the Chair has to ask for the co-operation of hon. members. I really think on this issue hon. members are abusing the patience of the whole House. I will move on to Orders of the Day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

The House resumed consideration of Mr. Andre's motion to appoint a Special Joint Committee to inquire and report upon the process for amending the Constitution of Canada.

Government Orders

SPEAKER'S RULING

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The Chair has now had an opportunity to consider whether the amendment moved this morning by the Hon. Member for Yukon was in order. The purpose of the main motion is to create a Special Joint Committee of the House of Commons and the Senate with the limited mandate of mainly looking into the Canadian Constitution Amending Formula.

The purpose of the amendment introduced by the Hon. Member for Yukon is to widen the mandate to include all matters affecting the Constitution, and, if adopted, the Standing Orders of the House would as a result be changed because the amendment also seeks to create a new Standing Committee.

In my humble opinion, the amendment introduced by the Hon. Member for Yukon extends beyond the scope of the main motion and by widening the committee's mandate, becomes a substantive motion which requires advanced notice and calls for a debate of its own as a main motion.

I refer my hon. colleagues to Speaker Lamoureux's ruling of September 26, 1967, and February 23, 1968. Citation 437(2) of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, will further explain this ruling. I appreciate the graciousness of the House in allowing me a few moments to ponder this question of procedure.

Resuming debate. The hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada has the floor.

[English]

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today in support of the motion before us to establish a joint committee of the House of Commons and the Senate on the constitutional amending process.

If there is one item upon which I believe we can agree in this House, it is that a better way must be found to amend the Constitution. This became particularly clear during the Meech Lake process.

As the Prime Minister said in his address to the nation on June 23, 1990, after the failure of the accord: