

Mr. Pinard: If hon. members are serious, they will listen. In the January, 1976 edition, those very words "at a time appointed by Mr. Speaker" are included. When we go to the 1978 edition, as I just mentioned, the words are not there. This is an error, since in the latest edition of *Beauchesne*, which is subsequent to the Standing Orders of 1978, those words of 1976 are restored.

● (1540)

If I may, Madam Speaker, I would draw your attention and the attention of the Clerk of the House to the fact that at the very beginning of the edition of 1978 there is a foreword which says: "The changes in the Standing Orders since the printing of January 1976 are as follows:". That appears at the very beginning. Then there are five changes and Section 17 is not included. So it is obvious that Section 17 should not have been changed. This is an error of printing and *Beauchesne* is correct in reprinting what was printed in 1976.

That is the explanation why my hon. colleague, by quoting from the edition of 1978, could not find the words in *Beauchesne*'s fifth edition but which were in the Standing Orders of 1976, words which are not quoted as having been amended at the beginning of the 1978 edition.

This is all very technical, but in fact never in this House was there a decision that permitted Standing Order 17 to be altered in the way it has been altered in the 1978 edition. That is why, Madam Speaker, I am saying that you have the power and the right to postpone, under the Standing Order, all questions of privilege to an hour that is suitable to you.

Madam Speaker: On the point of order, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert).

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Madam Speaker, in 1976 we tried out something. An order determined that for the remainder of a certain period the Speaker could defer any question of privilege to avoid them during the oral question period. Unfortunately, the temporary order was not renewed and this is why—

An hon. Member: For what reason?

Mr. Lambert: What are the reasons? I do not know, but the order was not renewed nor were the amendments incorporated because the present Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen), who was then government House leader, refused to do so. He absolutely refused to refer any procedure matter to the Committee on Procedure and Organization to enable us to refer the recommendations to the House for approval. There are now more shortcomings in the Standing Orders on account of that. It is merely a matter of shortcomings because the Standing Orders of 1978 as printed are correct.

[*English*]

Hon. Erick Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, I will be very brief. I submit, first of all, that the little green book that I

Point of Order—Mr. Clark

hold in my hand and which you also hold in your hand is the official "Standing Orders of the House of Commons." Nowhere else will they be found than in this book. Similarly with statutes across the country.

I suggest, secondly, Madam Speaker, that any appendix, which is what my hon. friend the government House leader was referring to when reading from *Beauchesne*, cannot be regarded as the official version of the Standing Orders contained in this green book. There is another explanation than the one given by him; he suggested there was a misprint and that the error occurs in the official edition and not in *Beauchesne*.

The other explanation and the more logical one is that this Rule 17(1) in Appendix 2 of *Beauchesne* blends the two occasions upon which privilege is raised. One, we find, is in 17(1) of the official Standing Orders, namely, that it must be heard immediately. The other aspect of it, "or at a time appointed by Mr. Speaker", deals with those questions of privilege that may be raised on occasions not contemplated by 17(1), of which, for instance, notice need not be given if the question of privilege arises out of the question period. The Chair has the power to deal with those at some other time.

The ultimate argument, and I suggest to you, Madam Speaker, the one that you must accept, is that this green book, the "Standing Orders of the House of Commons", is the official rules of this House and cannot in any way be supplemented by any appendix printed in *Beauchesne*, or anywhere else, for that matter.

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker: If I may, I shall try to clarify this first point. The 1975 version of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons did indeed include in Standing Order 17 a provision under which the Speaker of the House had to or could hear questions of privilege at the time specified by the Chair. This was included in Standing Order 17 following a temporary order made by the House which remained in effect from 7 April, 1975, to October 17, 1977.

Later on, this provision was removed from the first paragraph of Standing Order 17 because, if my information is correct, the parties involved had not agreed to have it maintained. However, on the basis of this temporary provision which had been included in Standing Order 17, my predecessor, Speaker Jerome, ruled that questions of privilege could no longer be heard during the oral question period, in all likelihood because the question period was going on indefinitely and Members of Parliament could not arrange their schedule on the basis of what was going on in the House.

He therefore determined on the basis of the temporary order which had then expired that questions of privilege would be heard at three o'clock after the Oral Question Period. After a trial period, he once again determined that his decision seemed to be appropriate, that it was likely to promote the orderly