

**Mr. Baldwin:** On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, there is also the question of the totals. The totals are shown here, but I cannot tell whether they have been reduced by the appropriate amount. I submit, with deference, that this emphasizes the point I tried to raise a short while ago, that this government has been defeated on a supply bill—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Resign.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Out!

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

**Mr. Speaker:** I am advised by the officials that the required changes have been made in the copies distributed, including the changes in totals.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Lotbinière, on a point of order.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, no one in our party has received copies of the amendments. To us this is important and calls for a point of order. In fact, it can be recalled that, on a similar occasion, as I was against the adoption of one vote, the Chair respectfully advise me that there could be no discussion of the subject matter of a bill at that time. Therefore, I would like to be given a copy of the amendments where there is no mention of the Information Canada item for \$19,000. Otherwise, the possibility of discussing this bill will be established and we could therefore discuss it in the Committee of the Whole.

[English]

**Mr. Nielsen:** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I believe the Chair as well as the House generally is faced with a problem tonight.

**An hon. Member:** Yes. It is you.

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

**Mr. Nielsen:** I do not know whose interjection that was. But I am sure Standing Orders require that when this House deals with any bill, the order on first reading is that it shall be printed. The bill which has been distributed contains on page 4 interlineations, probably by the House leader or his staff, which are written in pen and ink. They also appear on page four of the French version. These are not printed at all.

In addition, a translation has purportedly been made. I submit there was no time for this to be done by the official translators, so reliance on that interlineation would be somewhat hazardous. Again, on page 13 there are small black pen marks through the schedule.

I submit the rules call for bills to be printed. This is not printed; it is only partly printed. Of course, as well as that rule, Your Honour is faced with the problem that the Standing Orders require all questions to be put this night

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on the final estimates. Nevertheless, I submit it is not proper for the government to place before the House a bill which is not printed in accordance with the Standing Orders.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Yukon has put the matter very clearly. The Chair is faced with the obligation, under the Standing Order, to put all questions and this is what the Chair is attempting to do. We all appreciate that in circumstances such as this a special difficulty arises. The order is that the bill be printed. Bills are always, in such circumstances, printed in advance. That is the long-established practice. Otherwise nobody would know when they would become available. Perhaps we would have to wait until five o'clock in the morning until they were returned from the Queen's Printer for submission to the House.

With the hope that time can be saved, knowing that these bills are always printed in advance for the convenience of hon. members, and although the hon. member has suggested that because there are changes we cannot say the bill has been printed, in view of the fact that changes have been made under the direction of the Clerk and his officials to reflect the vote of the House taken earlier this evening, I should think this is the only practical way to proceed.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to make one or two remarks on this point of order, which I think go to the root of the problem. It seems to me a strange procedure that we get a bill which nobody could have had a chance to study or read, but we have to vote on.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Woolliams:** I think that is a weakness. My friends can laugh, but my sympathy is with Mr. Speaker in this regard. I think this is one situation which a special committee should consider. It is superfluous tonight to ask us to vote on a bill which nobody in this House has read. Therein lies the problem. To put it the way Dickens might, if a rule of this House permit this procedure, the rule is a ass.

**Mr. Speaker:** There are three members rising on the point of order. I will, of course, hear them because the matter is an important one. The point made by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams), which he has made before and on which the Chair has reflected, would certainly indicate that it is always difficult, in respect of supply, when the House is presented with a bill which is ordered to be printed and circulated immediately with very little time for study by hon. members. At the same time, I think in all fairness it can be said that hon. members have in advance a pretty good idea of what it will contain.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I rise on the point of order, Mr. Speaker. This is something I perhaps should have laid before the Chair when I spoke previously, but being involved with the rules I overlooked it. It seems to me that now the bill is before us, trying to reflect, as it does, in a very amateurish way the vote the House took on the Information Canada vote, this government in essence has been defeated on a supply item. Surely that brings the whole procedure in