

The first point refers to the fact that in the Speech from the Throne, the Governor General neglected to request the House to appropriate the funds required to carry on the services and expenditures of her Government. Because of this omission, it was argued that the Government could not and should not have asked the House to designate a continuing Order for Supply.

If I may refer Hon. Members to the operative Standing Order. Standing Order 81(1) states:

At the commencement of each session, the House shall designate by motion, a continuing Order of the Day for the consideration of the business of supply.

Hon. Members will note that the Standing Orders use the word "shall" and no specific mention is made in this Standing Order about the necessity of having a request in the Speech from the Throne to appropriate funds. If I may draw your attention to the commentary found in the *Annotated Standing Orders* relating to Standing Order 81(1), page 250, it reads as follows:

During the Speech from the Throne at the start of each session, the Governor General traditionally addresses the House and says, "You will be asked to appropriate the funds required to carry on the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament".

I would like to stress the use of the word "traditionally". As the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands himself pointed out, there have been occasions when the Governor General has neglected to read this traditional phrase in the Speech from the Throne. He specifically referred to two previous cases: September 8, 1930 and December 12, 1988. A careful review of all Speeches from the Throne since 1867 has revealed that there were two other such cases, namely: January 25, 1940 and October 9, 1951. The case of 1951 is of particular interest to the Chair because while no reference was made to Supply in the Speech from the Throne, the House did appoint a Committee of Supply.

[Translation]

The Chair appreciates the comments made by the Hon. Member but wishes to point out to the House that the Standing Orders do not specify that a request for funds appear in the Speech from the Throne prior to designating a continuing Order of the Day for Supply. As the *Annotated Standing Orders* explains, this phrase is a tradition but not a requirement of the Standing Orders.

Privilege

[English]

Procedurally speaking, the Government is obligated to act in accordance with the terms of Standing Order 81(1) and I must therefore conclude that the Government has respected the rules of the House in designating a continuing Order of the Day for the consideration of supply.

The Chair would now like to turn its attention to the next issue raised by the Hon. Members relating to the use of Governor General Warrants.

Many people are puzzled as to the nature of these Warrants. To begin with, I would like to point out a difficulty we are encountering in the use of terms; there are Governor General Warrants and Governor General Special Warrants. Governor General Warrants as described in Section 28 of the Financial Administration Act are used frequently. Every time that Parliament adopts an appropriation Bill and Royal Assent is given, the Governor General must then sign a Warrant before the Government can draw on the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Governor General Special Warrants are different. When Parliament is not in session and a payment is urgently required for the public good, the Governor in Council may, by order, direct the preparation of a special warrant to be signed by the Governor General authorizing a payment to be made out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund if there is no other appropriation pursuant to which the payment may be made. This is in accordance with Section 30 of the Financial Administration Act. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis) when participating in the debate on the question of privilege, was quick to point out that the Government, in issuing the present Special Warrants, did so precisely because of the three conditions just mentioned.

[Translation]

Special warrants make it possible for the work of Government to continue even though Parliament is not sitting and the Supply process has not been completed, or begun anew. Special warrants may be used to pay the Crown's bills from the time of dissolution until the new Parliament has met or during prorogation and adjournment periods, so long as the terms and conditions of the *Financial Administration Act* are met and respected by the Government.