

Privilege—Mr. Nielsen

You dealt with this question, Mr. Speaker, when I raised it some time ago. In 1973 You reviewed the procedure with respect to alterations in *Hansard*, and said that suggested changes by members are normally confined to corrections of errors and essential minor alterations. Then, sir, you went on to explain the procedure which should be adopted with respect to revision of *Hansard*, at the suggestion of members. Your ruling will be found at page 613 of the *Journals* of this House, No. 162, November 1, 1973.

I do not want to make this a substantive question of privilege because of the possibility of several explanations for the omission, but certainly I leave the matter, for the moment, in your hands, sir. As I have said, if you or the minister wishes to listen to the tape, you are perfectly welcome to do so. Because of the grossness of the omission, certainly there should be a revision of *Hansard* with those words re-entered as part of our record, since there seems to be absolutely no doubt that they were uttered by the minister.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport and Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think it is obvious even from the words used by the hon. member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) that he has explained the way in which *Hansard* has come to be as it is. I have no hesitation in saying that had he brought this matter to my attention I would have joined with him in trying to be sure that the record was as correct and as complete as possible. After a day or two one never is exactly sure what words one used, and I am glad now that we have both the electronic and *Hansard* records.

● (1522)

I may say though, to help the hon. member, that whether or not the words are shown on the record I have no trouble in telling him that I would be glad, in effect, to repeat the answer I gave with those words in it, because obviously if the commission is considering an issue before it, a decision of the commission will follow after that consideration. I think that is so obvious that the words are not as important as the hon. member seems to think.

Having said that, I now say the words; so I give it to him both ways. I do not necessarily look at all of these words myself, as the hon. member has suspected, but in this case I am quite sure from what he has said that it was not an error or a change on my part or of any of my staff in any case. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that I would leave the matter in your hands as to whether there is sufficient in the record or available to *Hansard* to make the correction.

I would appreciate if the correction which the hon. member brought to my attention in respect of the omission of the word "hypothetical" were to be made. My use of the words "theoretical" and "hypothetical" was intentional, and I do not consider them to be substitutes, one for the other, but very important additions. I would like to see that word restored, if that can be done, and if the record shows that I did, indeed, say both words.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, for your own consideration, sir, it somewhat alarms me, and I am sure all members, that *Hansard* would fail, with our recording system in the House here, to have recorded those words, yet they were picked up by the recording equipment above your chair, sir. Those words may be on the electronic recording equipment in this House. But if they are not, then a very serious question arises as to the integrity of that system.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I feel quite confident that the language which has been referred to and has now been ascribed to by the minister on both occasions, both the word "hypothetical" in conjunction with the word "theoretical" as described by the minister, and the words that were referred to by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), were in fact spoken by the minister, as he has said today, or probably were, and that in any case the electronic recording devices will have them as part of yesterday's proceedings. Certainly the minister was giving an answer during the course of the question period, and we have the additional advantage of being able to examine the television tape of that question period yesterday, which I am sure will be a full and complete reproduction of the minister's words yesterday.

That being so, it leaves us with the problem of examining the breakdown in reporting or the editing of *Hansard*. Certainly that falls within my area of jurisdiction, and I will look into it at once and report to the House.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES

TABLING OF AGENDA FOR CONFERENCE OF FIRST MINISTERS

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), following the Prime Minister's undertaking on Monday to the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), copies in both official languages of the proposed agenda for the first ministers' conference which is being held from next Monday, October 30, to Wednesday, November 1.

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[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF SECOND READING OF BILL C-7

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 75C, I wish to advise the House that the representatives of the parties have been unable to reach agreement under Standing Order 75A or 75B on the