

Point of Order—Mr. Nielsen

welcome them. The Chair would invite the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain, or any other Member, to take the device of a substantive motion and have a referral. In the circumstances, regrettably the Chair cannot do so as a matter of privilege.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader has informed me that he has an unavoidable meeting which he must attend now. He has asked me to put off the usual Thursday question until five o'clock, and I have agreed to put that question at five o'clock with the consent of the House.

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POINTS OF ORDER**MR. NIELSEN—DISPOSITION OF WAYS AND MEANS MOTION**

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have two brief points of order. The first concerns the remarks of the Chair yesterday in connection with the Ways and Means motion and the Royal Recommendation. Now that I have had an opportunity to examine the comments of the Chair on the legislation, we provide our consent here and now for the Recommendation attached to Bill C-8 to remain on the Notice Paper for the 48 hours required. Then of course the House officials will print the Recommendation in *Votes and Proceedings*.

I suggest with respect that in future if the Chair has something like this coming up, if the House Leaders were given advance notice, possibly we could react at once to it.

MR. NIELSEN—PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING FIRST READING OF BILL

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my second point of order concerns yesterday's proceedings. I do not intend to raise it in any substantive or sustained way, but because of the undesirability of the matter at some future date possibly being taken as a precedent, I thought I should register a caveat now. While this particular incident is of no significance, nonetheless a precedent based upon yesterday's record on a more substantive issue in the future might become more serious.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that after the vote last night you said:

I declare the motion carried.

Then there appears the following notation on page 531 of *Hansard*:

Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Then it continues:

MR. SPEAKER: When will the Bill be read the second time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: At the next sitting of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed. At the next sitting.

Then there appears my intervention:

Mr. Speaker, surely after the vote and it being ten minutes past six, no further question can be put. With great respect, you cannot do that.

I suggest that the more proper course to have been followed would have been to put the question as to when the Bill will be read a second time today rather than yesterday.

I will not make a big issue of it because it is not significant and does not affect our proceedings in any significant way. However, I would not want it to be used as a precedent should some matter arise in the future which has a great deal more significance and importance than this one.

● (1550)

Mr. Speaker: The Chair would like to express its appreciation to the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) for the positive way in which he has put forth the matter. Such matters call for judgments by the Chair on very short notice. The Chair has, however, relied on Citation 722 of *Beauchesne's*, which reads:

Appointment for Second Reading

When the House has agreed to the first reading of a bill, the Speaker at once proceeds to ask: "When shall the bill be read a second time?" The answer is generally: "At the next sitting of the House." The bill is placed on the Order Paper, in its proper place, for a second reading at a future time. It is purely formal and is proposed with the object of placing the bill on the agenda for a second reading at which time all discussion can more regularly and conveniently take place.

This was the principle guiding the Chair at that time. The Chair takes note of the representation by the Hon. Member for Yukon, and in particular the helpful way in which he has raised it. I call to the attention of the Hon. Member for Yukon that in the opinion of the Chair, the Chair was going through a formal, almost a routine proceeding. The Chair will, however, make note of the representation that has been made.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, if the Chair would allow a one-sentence observation, my whole point is that the House was not "sitting" at the time the second question was put.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, there are always grey areas. I read the same citation as you and I came to the same conclusion. It shows how people reading the same thing do not necessarily always arrive at the same answers.

I want to say, by way of unanimous consent to the inclusion of the Royal Recommendation, that I agree with the comments made by the House Leader for the Official Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

MR. HAWKES—READY AVAILABILITY TO MEMBERS OF HANSARD COPIES

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I apologize for taking a brief moment of the House. When I was first elected, we had copies of Bills and *Hansard* under our desk. That situation has since been cleaned