

[Translation]

### THE ROYAL ASSENT

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have the honour to inform the House that the following communication has been received on May 12, 1977.

Government House  
Ottawa

May 12, 1977

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Jean Beetz, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor general, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 12th of May, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
Esmond Butler  
Secretary to the Governor General

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

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

**Mr. Beaudoin:** I would like to ask government members, members of the opposition, as well as the NDP and my own colleagues to hear me out concerning changes that have to be made to our rules.

Whenever we have grievances, cases of encroachment upon our parliamentary or private rights as representatives of a political party in this House, we cannot express them because our rules forbid it.

I would ask Your Honour to give the Committee on Procedure and Organization the possibility of changing our rules so that between the hours of 7 and 8 or 10 and 11 in the evening, we may express our grievances and obtain a reply from the minister responsible for the CBC, the Canadian National Railways, or any other agency to obtain a specific answer concerning our grievance.

At the present time, in the case mentioned by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin), a serious grievance has been expressed in the House but according to our rules Your Honour does not have the possibility of allowing the minister responsible for the CBC or other agencies to reply. I hope that eventually we shall truly solve this problem once and for all.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Richmond has certainly raised an important and interesting question. In my opinion, one of the weaknesses of our procedure in Parliament is the lack of opportunities for private members to express grievances according to the Standing Orders; one aspect of the political life of an elected representative consists in expressing grievances in the House. In general, it is easy to do so by asking questions, but this is not absolutely perfect for this purpose. However, it is possible for a few members to ask

### Criminal Code

questions at ten o'clock, but this is limited to two or three members maybe twice a week.

This is a very interesting question and I hope that the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization will be able to find a means to allow members to express their important grievances and to request an immediate reply from the government.

● (1530)

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Orders of the day.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1977

#### AMENDMENTS TO CRIMINAL CODE

The House resumed, from Wednesday, May 11, consideration of the motion of Mr. Basford that Bill C-51, to amend the Criminal Code, the Customs Tariff, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday before debate on this bill concluded I gave the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) notice of my intention, as a solicitor, citizen and one charged with responsibility for making a decision on the bill in this House, to voice my concern about the electronic surveillance provisions of the bill. I said that if the minister was proposing a far-reaching change in law affecting the civil rights of people in society, then he is under the duty of explaining to the House of Commons why the practice established under that earlier bill introduced in the twenty-ninth parliament ought to be changed.

The minister did not, during his speech introducing this bill, deal with that point to any great extent. Perhaps he will differ with me. Nevertheless, I suggest he ought to deal with it substantially. He is asking the House to grant to our police forces powers they do not now possess under the law. If he seeks to change the law concerning privacy in this manner, he is under a heavy onus to prove the need.

I will not take up much of the time of the House. The opposition does not intend to delay this bill. Before concluding, I pay tribute to the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) whose remarks of yesterday on the content of this bill deserve the commendation of all hon. members. He showed how far our jurisprudence as interpreted by the courts has strayed from the law we thought we had established in 1973. By presenting his argument forcefully, clearly and succinctly, he did a great service not only to the legal profession and the courts but to parliament and the people of Canada.