

*Privilege—Mr. Nowlan*

when he said that the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier did not raise it himself, probably because he realizes that the matter of appointing members to committees falls under Standing Order 65(4)(b), which I will read to the Hon. Member so he will know that this question does not fall within the purview of a question of privilege. It states:

Changes in the membership of any standing, joint or special committee may be effected by a notification thereof, signed by the Member acting as the Chief Government Whip, being filed with the Clerk of the House who shall cause the same to be printed—

Therefore, the changes do not concern the Speaker. The changes do not fall under the purview of a question of privilege.

The Hon. Member is capable of performing his duties, at any rate. It would have to be the Hon. Member himself who has been affected by the matter raised in his question of privilege. He just told me that he has been affected positively by a speech, which means that he has been able to perform even better than before because of that particular speech. Therefore, I must unfortunately rule that the Hon. Member—no, the Hon. Member may not reply.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Member explained to me his question of privilege. It concerned a Member having been struck out of a committee. That is of no concern to the Chair and certainly is not a question of privilege.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Madam Speaker, with respect, I have not even mentioned the Standing Order which you referred to because I do not think it is relevant. That is not my point; and as Your Honour well knows from the three-page letter I submitted—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Nowlan:** —I am talking about implied threats. I am talking about implied threats, which matter is not covered in any Standing Order. That is why I want to be heard for two minutes.

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I do not care about the Standing Order that you read. That is not relevant. I agree with you, it is not relevant.

**Madam Speaker:** Well, the Hon. Member should care, because those are the Standing Orders which have been determined by the Members themselves, and it is quite clear to me that the matter of appointing members to a committee does not concern the Chair. There has been reference to it this afternoon. There is a striking committee which deals with that, and it does not concern the Chair. The Hon. Member might not like what is going on in this committee, but it is not a question of privilege.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Well, can I ask the Chair—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Nowlan:** There is such a thing in this House as judicial notice of the affairs and activities of this House.

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I must say to the Hon. Member that he is in the habit of constantly standing up every time—

**Mr. Nowlan:** Because you cut me off before I start.

**Madam Speaker:** —I make some kind of remark to him.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I was almost finished.

**Madam Speaker:** The Chair cannot function if every occasion will be seized upon as an opportunity to go into debate with the Chair concerning matters that Hon. Members raise. I do my best and I do study the questions beforehand. I am quite sure that in this case the Hon. Member does not have a question of privilege, and I ask him to abide by that ruling.

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**POINT OF ORDER**

MR. ANDRE—USE OF PART OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR FOR GIVING OF ROYAL ASSENT

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a small point of order, to place it on the record. This is now the longest session of Parliament in history, and one of the consequences is that Private Members' Hours on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are no longer in place.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Since March of 1981.

**Mr. Andre:** Since March of 1981. The only time left for Private Members' Hour is on Thursday and Friday afternoons. That, I think, impinges on the rights of Private Members.

It strikes me as being non-conducive to harmonious relationships in this Chamber for the Government to choose part of the remaining Private Members' Hours for use in Royal Assent. I would simply like to state for the record that it would show far more sympathy for the backbenchers and would be much more conducive to a harmonious atmosphere if that sensitivity were borne in mind the next time His Excellency is asked to give Royal Assent to a Bill.

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of State (Finance)):** Madam Speaker, concerning the point of order raised by the Hon. Member, I share, in some small measure, the frustration of the Hon. Member, but probably as a Member who is charged with the specific responsibility of dealing with such legislation as the Income Tax Act. The Hon. Member has indicated that this is the longest sitting of this Parliament—

**An Hon. Member:** Whose fault is that?

**Mr. Cosgrove:** —and indeed, it is the longest. There is legislation waiting; for example, legislation flowing from two budgets introduced in the House. I know that all Hon. Members are probably anxious to deal with the matter so that when they return to their constituents during the break over the