

Standing Orders and Procedure

Chair will try to apportion opportunities to make such statements as fairly as possible, among the various parties represented in this House. In fact, that is the intent of this parliamentary reform, that is to say, such statements should be allowed in direct proportion to the number of Members in each party in this House. I shall therefore try to provide for fair allocation of time for statements under the provisions of Provisional Standing Order 21. All questions raised must be on matters of concern, but they do not necessarily have to be matters of urgent and pressing necessity. The time set aside for Members' Statements should not be used to make personal attacks. I think that in the previous application of Standing Order 43, the Chair had to consider the content of the motion, but in this case, and in this particular form, Members are being given an opportunity to raise matters of concern. It is clear that personal attacks are not considered to be matters that should be raised and that are important, in the opinion of the House, at this point in the proceedings. This also applies to congratulations, and I always find it rather embarrassing, because usually, the people Members want to congratulate certainly deserve congratulations, and I give the impression of thinking that these people are most underserving of congratulations. So this is a little embarrassing for the Chair, but I think we should get some agreement on this. The reform is very clear about the matter that congratulations, however important they may be, have no place at this point of our parliamentary proceedings, and I therefore intend to interrupt any members who try to extend congratulations or recite poems or make jokes. I apologize to the Hon. Member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers), whose poems I find quite delightful, but all this is over and done with, and I can no longer allow myself this kind of entertainment. In fact, I believe the Hon. Member was doing it for my sake, because he realized I enjoyed his efforts.

There will be no requirement to move a motion in order to make a statement under Provisional Standing Order 21, as we said before.

I trust that I have correctly interpreted the wishes of the House in preparing these guidelines, and in any case, the Chair will do everything in its power to apply them in the spirit in which the House has adopted its new rules—on an experimental basis, it is true—and that is why we shall be able to consult with one another as the proceedings of the House unfold under the new rules and find out whether they are still appropriate to our needs. Of course, the Chair is counting on the co-operation of all Members of this House in order to attain the desired results.

• (1110)

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Madam Speaker, I shall not waste the time of the House, but I should like to raise three points at this stage in the proceedings. First of all, I wish to thank you for your comments which I found very helpful in understanding how the House is going to operate. I shall now deal with my three points, one by one.

The first point I wish to raise concerns parliamentary procedure and the new rules that will be applied.

On November 29, 1982, the House passed a Government motion, which may be found on page 5400 of the *Votes and Proceedings*, proposing temporary changes in the Standing Orders appearing in Appendix C of the Third Report of the Special Committee on Standing Orders and Procedure. I shall not read the motion in its entirety, Madam Speaker. We all know what it entails, and as you said just now, the House must streamline and accelerate its proceedings. However, I should like to quote a paragraph which I feel is particularly relevant to my point of order. The paragraph in question appears on page 5400 of the *Votes and Proceedings*, and I quote:

That the Clerk of the House be authorized and instructed to print revised and re-numbered Standing Orders of the House incorporating the temporary Standing Orders and any technical or consequential amendments necessary.

Madam Speaker, we all have a revised and renumbered copy of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons. The new rules include the old and the new Standing Orders as well as certain technical and consequential amendments. Madam Speaker, with due respect, these words were not in the Committee's Report as tabled in the House. I wish to emphasize the words: technical and consequential amendments. If we carefully read Appendix C of the Third Report of the Special Committee, which is what we had to use during the Christmas holidays, we can imagine what could go on here, especially if we read it in both official languages, because in that way it is sometimes easier to understand the Standing Orders. If we do this, we see that it is quite clear the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) was very wise in the wording of his motion of November 29, 1982. I shall give two examples which gave me a bit of trouble. I am referring to Issue No. 7 of the Committee on Standing Orders and Procedure, where we read on page 7:39, in Standing Order 38A(1), in the French version, and I quote:

38A(1) Entre le 60^e et le 90^e jour de séance de la première session d'une Législature, lors d'un jour désigné par un ministre de la Couronne ou le 90^e jour de séance si ce jour n'a pas été désigné, etc—

And in English, Madam Speaker:

[English]

—sixty and ninety sitting days of the first session of a Parliament on a day designated by a Minister—

• (1115)

[Translation]

It is not clear in English, Madam Speaker, to say the least.

[English]

Before this first sixty—

[Translation]

In French, it does not say between the 60th and the 90th. The English does not correspond with the French version, and I suppose the Clerks noticed this and made a technical amendment.

At the bottom of the same page 7:39, we read that Standing Order 45(2) is deleted and the following substituted therefor: