

No 36

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

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OTTAWA, FRIDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1941

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PRAYERS.

A Message was received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate had passed the following Bill, to which the concurrence of this House was desired:—

Bill No. 18 (Letter B of the Senate), intituled: "An Act to incorporate General Security Insurance Company of Canada."

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RULING OF MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: On Wednesday last, 5th March, I was asked by the honourable member for Rosetown-Biggara to take into consideration Standing Order 41 and give an interpretation particularly of paragraphs 315 and 316 of Beauchesne Parliamentary Rules and Forms, which deal with the question of the reading of documents and whether these documents should be laid on the Table. When the honourable member made the suggestion I indicated that it was not the function of the Chair to give advice to honourable members but rather that the Speaker was required to judge and interpret the Rules of the House on any question raised in the course of a debate or in its proceedings.

The honourable member had in mind the discussion which took place that day and which had just been completed, on the question of privilege raised by the honourable member for North Battleford, in the course of which she read a letter received from a correspondent. It might be well to state to the House the Rule governing questions of privilege and it has been well stated in May's Parliamentary Practice, 13th Edition, Page 317. "The House is always willing to extend its indulgence when an honourable member wishes to clear up any misrepresentation of his character, but that indulgence ought to be strictly limited to such misrepresentations and ought not to extend to any observations other than by way of correction."

It was not necessary for me to give a decision during the discussion for the reason that the honourable member for North Battleford agreed to lay on the Table the letter which she read.