

motions will be debated next Friday, assuming, of course, that the government House leader does not change his mind again and put the allotted day somewhere else.

That brings me to the last point that I want to make. Because the Standing Orders are silent on this point and because of the uniqueness of yesterday's occurrence—I cannot recall an instance in my time here when the government has, at the eleventh hour, as it were, changed the allotted day. That course was followed and then the question arises of what is the proper method of doing that. It is my submission that logically our practices and procedures here would dictate that before a notice standing on the Order Paper can be altered in any respect—and this is a very important respect, namely the change in the date—and before any addition or omission to the Order Paper in the order of business can be made, if for no other reason because of the citation in Beauchesne's in support of the opposition having this right, a motion has to be made by the government if it intends to change the Order Paper.

Once that allotted day is designated, past practices indicate that the date does not change. The question has never arisen before. I suggest to the Chair, however, that on the proper action of the government under Standing Order 32(1)(p) relating to the conduct of the business of the House, the motion could have been made to change the date in the item that normally appears on page 2 of the Order Paper and to change the date at the back of the Order Paper where it logically and traditionally appears.

There is one further submission in support of which is Citation 478(1) of Beauchesne's fifth edition which appears at page 167 and reads as follows:

To this extent, there is a distinction between the business of supply and other government business with respect to SO 18.

That is the Standing Order which permits the government, in its discretion, to alter the sequence of the consideration of government business. If that distinction did not exist and if it had not been recognized all this time, then we would not see on page 2 of the Order Paper in every single instance, in my submission, although I have not checked them all, the order of business set out as it regularly has been. For instance, on January 25, 1982, the first item set out was "Questions on the Order Paper"; the second item was "Government Orders", and indeed the next item appears in italics. Simply because the item appears in italics does not afford it the kind of distinction that Beauchesne is talking about and that our Standing Orders are talking about. My submission is that there appears (*Allotted Day—Supply*) on a separate line. That is because it is a separate item and not because it is part of government orders, which I submit it is not. That is in support of my argument that the text must appear on the Order Paper, not wishing to reflect upon your ruling of yesterday.

I have already pointed out that there is no date on the motion that was filed. I want to cite one more Standing Order for your consideration before taking my seat. This may well give rise to another point that I may wish to make later today or perhaps on Monday. Standing Order 58(12) reads as follows:

*Point of Order—Mr. Nielsen*

On any day or days appointed for the consideration of any business under the provisions of this Standing Order,—

The words "any day or days appointed for the consideration of any business under the provisions of this Standing Order" deal with the whole spectrum of supply, Madam Speaker. It goes on:

—that order of business shall have precedence over all other government business in such sitting or sittings.

Nothing could be more explicit; nothing could be clearer than Standing Order 58(12).

I say that, Madam Speaker, because it bears on a point of order or a question of privilege which I intend to raise if not today, then certainly on Monday. Thank you for your patience in hearing me out, Madam Speaker. The argument has necessarily been long because of its complexity and because yesterday was the first time this has happened. It is of crucial importance to the House that this kind of procedure be cleared up in a way that is fair to all members of the House, but particularly to all members of the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** Just before I hear other members who want to speak on the point raised by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) could I ask him to help me with a question which came to my mind as he was giving his references and developing his argument. I refer to page 167 of Beauchesne, Citation 478(1) where the following appears:

Although technically the business under discussion is government business, motions given precedence on these allotted days may be moved only by members in opposition—

That explains that usually government business is brought in by the government, and technically this is government business, but members of the opposition may move the motion. It goes on to say, and this is the quotation which the hon. member emphasized to me, as follows: "To this extent, there is a distinction between the business of supply and other government business—." Does the hon. member take the words "To this extent" to apply to more than the fact that "motions given precedence on these allotted days may be moved only by members in opposition."? "To this extent" to me explains "motions given precedence on these allotted days may be moved only by members in opposition to the government." Could the hon. member answer that question for me?

**Mr. Nielsen:** Yes, I see the point that you raise, Madam Speaker. I do not believe the interpretation of that sentence should be limited to its application only to the right of opposition members to move under supply. There is a distinction between the business of supply and other government business in Standing Order 18. Citation 478(1) reads as follows:

● (1250)

Under the terms of Standing Order 58(5) twenty-five days are allotted to the business of supply in each year. Although technically the business under discussion is government business—