

procedure set out in paragraph (b) of this section, provided that they shall not become permanent members of the committee. In the event of a Member having neglected to file such a list within the prescribed time, the clerk of the committee will so notify in writing the Chief Whip of the Member's party, (or, in the case of independent Members, the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition) and the Member's name shall be struck from the list of members of the committee, and the Standing Committee on House Management shall select another Member to take his or her place on the permanent membership of the committee. Provisions of this Standing Order shall not apply to the House Management or Public Accounts Committee. Members on these two Committees may draw their lists of seven replacement Members from any envelope.

• (1630)

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I will certainly hear the parliamentary secretary, but I want to say something first, and then I will hear the hon. member.

Well over an hour ago, the government introduced a motion. It is a long motion, and as I indicated the pages are about three quarters of an inch thick. I am not persuaded that anyone was particularly taken by surprise with the motion.

Under these circumstances it has been a tradition in this place that the Speaker is allowed to dispense with the reading of the entire motion. As hon. members know, and those who have been listening and watching know, the motion is a series of amendments to the rules of this place. There is some division of opinion in the House with respect to whether the amendments meet with everybody's satisfaction. That is the sort of thing that is expected.

That in itself is not the problem. At the time I asked the House if it would dispense with the necessity of myself and others reading the entire motion, both in French and in English. For reasons which I will not comment upon, the New Democratic Party withheld that consent and, I think, also at least one independent member did.

This has been going on for quite a long time now. I am just wondering if the House would be in a mood to allow me to dispense with reading the rest of this motion?

Government Orders

The hon. member for Kamloops.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, in your usual fashion you referred to the traditions of the House of Commons and the fact that there has been a tradition that when such a motion has been put, it has been the will of the House to forgo the actual reading of the motion that is before us.

Yes, that tradition has been challenged. The reason it has been challenged is that what we are about to begin debate on, changes to the Standing Orders, are also an abandonment of a whole variety of traditions, so I am proposing—

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to get into debate on the substance of the motion. I know the hon. member for Kamloops would not want to do that either.

What I am bringing to the attention of the House is my concern of the use of the rules. They are used often as tactics. I have been on both sides of the House and I understand that. It would seem to me that there are occasions when having used a rule to make a point there might be an appropriate time to not press it too far.

With respect to the rule itself, it is very hard to persuade anyone in the country that it is necessary for the functioning of this place to read all of these amendments, which of course are meaningless, as an hon. member pointed out, without having the annotated rules in front of one.

In any event, I put it to the House again: Is the House prepared to dispense?

The hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond and then I will hear the hon. member for Kamloops.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, perhaps this matter can be dispensed with relatively quickly if you would allow me the opportunity to pose a very succinct question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader. Does the government intend to proceed today with giving notice of a closure motion on the changes to the rules?

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I have been very clear in all negotiations with my hon. friend, the House leader of the Official Opposition and the House leader of the New Democratic Party that it was not the government's intention to move notice of closure under Standing Order 57(1).