

It is perhaps a rather fine distinction between intention and opinion, but it is one that can be drawn and is one that should be kept in the minds of honourable Members when they ask questions.

I should like to refer to Beauchesne and also to May, sixteenth edition, page 356. Beauchesne's second edition, citation 339, repeated in the fourth and latest edition, as citation 178, reads:

Questions addressed to ministers should relate to the public affairs with which they are officially connected, to proceedings pending in parliament, or to any matter of administration for which the minister is responsible. Within these lines an explanation can be sought regarding the intentions of the government, but not an expression of opinion upon matters of policy.

May I refer also to another rule of the House. I was not in the chair yesterday when a reference was made to the Governor General. Although I am sure that the honourable Member who made the reference intended no disrespect of the Governor General, perhaps what was said could be susceptible of that interpretation. For the guidance of honourable Members of the House, may I refer to Standing Order 35:

No member shall speak disrespectfully of Her Majesty, nor of any of the Royal Family, nor of His Excellency or the person administering the government of Canada; nor use offensive words against either House, or against any member thereof.

May I refer also to a comment on the practice which is found in May's sixteenth edition at page 457:

Unless the discussion is based upon a substantive motion, drawn in proper terms, reflections must not be cast in debate upon the conduct of the sovereign, the heir to the throne, or other members of the royal family, the Governor General of a Dominion, the Speaker, the chairman of ways and means, members of either House of Parliament, or judges of the superior courts—

and so on.

Since there are many new Members in the House, I thought it desirable to refer to the rules and the practice, so that in the future Members would be careful in making references of that kind.

The House resumed debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Lafrenière, seconded by Mr. Nielsen,—That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.