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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

REPORT

of the

Special Committee
appointed to consider with Mr. Speaker
the procedure of the
House of Commons

Presented by

The Honourable L. René Beaudoin, Q. C.
Speaker of the House of Commons

TUESDAY JUNE 14, 1955

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CANADA

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AMENDED STANDING ORDERS

(1) The House shall meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:30 o'clock p.m. and on Fridays at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

Time and
day of
meeting

(2) Notwithstanding the provision in section 17 of this standing order, the House shall meet at 12:00 o'clock a.m. on any day or days appointed for the consideration of the order for resuming debate on the motion for an Address in reply to the Speaker's speech and on any annual message proposed by the Speaker. The House shall meet at 2:30 o'clock p.m. on any day appointed when the House shall meet at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

Morning
meeting
during
debate on
Address
to His
Excellency

The Special Committee appointed to consider with Mr. Speaker the procedure of this House begs leave to present the following as its second report:

Lack of
quorum

Your Committee recommends that the standing orders and procedure of the House be amended, as follows:

Reading
clerk

(1) At 2:30 o'clock p.m. on any day upon which a meeting of the House is held, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair until 2:00 o'clock p.m.

(2) At 1:00 o'clock p.m. on any day upon which a meeting of the House is held, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair until 2:30 o'clock p.m. hereafter.

Mid-day
meeting

(3) At 11:00 o'clock a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at 12:00 o'clock a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Speaker shall, unless otherwise provided, adjourn the House without question and until the next sitting day.

Reading
Adjourn-
ment

(4) When it is provided in any standing order that the business under consideration at the ordinary time of adjournment be forthwith disposed of or concluded, Mr. Speaker shall not adjourn the House until the specified procedure be completed.

Adjourn-
ment
deferred

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 2

Times and days of sitting.

(1) The House shall meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2.30 o'clock p.m. and on Fridays at 11.00 o'clock a.m.

Morning sittings during debate on Address to His Excellency.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section (1) of this standing order, the House shall meet at 11.00 o'clock a.m. on any day or days appointed for the consideration of the order for resuming debate on the motion for an Address in reply to His Excellency's speech and on any amendment proposed thereto, except Wednesdays and the first day so appointed when the House shall meet at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Lack of quorum.

(3) If at the time of meeting there be not a quorum, Mr. Speaker may take the Chair and adjourn the House until the next sitting day.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 6

Evening sittings.

(1) At 6.00 o'clock p.m., except on Wednesdays and Fridays, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

Mid-day recess.

(2) At 1.00 o'clock p.m. on any day upon which a morning sitting of the House is held, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair until 2.30 o'clock p.m.

Evening Adjournment.

(3) At 6.00 o'clock p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays and at 10.00 o'clock p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, unless hereunder otherwise provided, Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put until the next sitting day.

Adjournment deferred.

(4) When it is provided in any standing order that the business under consideration at the ordinary time of adjournment be forthwith disposed of or concluded, Mr. Speaker shall not adjourn the House until the specified proceedings be completed.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

STANDING ORDER 2

The present standing order reads as follows:

The time for the meeting of the House is at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon of each sitting day, and if at the time of meeting there be not a quorum, Mr. Speaker may take the Chair and adjourn.

Time of
daily
sittings.

When the House rises on Friday, it stands adjourned, unless otherwise ordered, until the following Monday.

This amendment provides for a morning sitting on Fridays throughout the session, and for morning sittings during the debate on the Address in reply to His Excellency's speech, except on the traditional leaders' day and on Wednesdays when the House will meet at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

STANDING ORDER 6

The present standing order reads as follows:

(1) If at the hour of six o'clock p.m., except on Wednesday, the business of the House be not concluded, Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair until eight o'clock.

Evening
sittings.

(2) At the hour of six o'clock on Wednesday, Mr. Speaker adjourns the House without question put. The House then stands adjourned until Thursday.

Wednesday
Adjourn-
ment.

This amendment provides for an intermission from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. on any day upon which a morning sitting is held and for the ordinary adjournment of the House at 6.00 p.m. or 10.00 p.m., as the case may be. Clause (4) of the new standing order will permit of the operation of proceedings on certain debates and motions beyond the ordinary daily hour of adjournment.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 7

Business
inter-
rupted.

At the ordinary time of adjournment of the House, unless otherwise provided, the proceedings shall be interrupted and the business under consideration at the termination of the sitting shall stand over until the next sitting day when it will be taken up at the same stage where its progress was interrupted.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 12 (2)

Decorum.

(2) When Mr. Speaker is putting a question, no member shall enter, walk out of or across the House, or make any noise or disturbance.

STANDING ORDER 15 (1)

Prayers.

(1) Mr. Speaker shall read prayers every day at the meeting of the House before any business is entered upon.

STANDING ORDER 7

The present standing order reads as follows:

At ten of the clock p.m. unless the closure rule (Standing Order 39) be then in operation, the proceedings on any business under consideration shall be interrupted and Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put, provided that all business not disposed of at the termination of the sitting shall stand over until the next sitting day when it will be taken up at the same stage where its progress was interrupted.

Adjournment at 10 o'clock p.m.

Since standing order 6, as amended, provides for the ordinary daily adjournment at six or ten o'clock p.m., as the case may be, and for the operation of certain specified proceedings beyond either six or ten o'clock p.m., redundant provisions in this regard have been deleted from standing order 7.

STANDING ORDER 12 (2)

The present standing order reads as follows:

(2) When Mr. Speaker is putting a question, no member shall walk out of or across the House, or make any noise or disturbance.

Decorum in the House.

It is proposed that this standing order be amended by inserting therein the word *enter*.

STANDING ORDER 15 (1)

The present standing order reads as follows:

(1) Mr. Speaker shall read prayers every day at the meeting of the House before any business is entered upon.

Prayers.

There is no change in the foregoing section.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 15 (2)

Routine
business.

(2) The ordinary daily routine of business in the House shall be as follows:

Presenting reports by standing and special committees.

Motions.

Introduction of bills.

First readings of Senate public bills.

Government notices of motions.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 15 (3)

Order of
business
day by
day.

(3) The order of business for the consideration of the House, day by day, after the daily routine, shall be as follows:

(8) STANDING ORDER 15 (2)

The present standing order reads as follows:

Routine business.

- (2) The ordinary daily routine of business in the House shall be as follows:
 - Presenting reports by standing and special committees.
 - Motions.
 - Introduction of bills.
 - First readings of Senate bills.

Monday
Private
Members
day.

First reading of Senate public bills—It is proposed that private bills from the Senate be given a pro forma first reading; accordingly, a new standing order 102 (2) spelling out the procedure for such bills is being proposed. The procedure in respect of the first reading of Senate public bills remains unchanged.

Government notices of motions—So that the “orders of the day” may be reached and called at an early hour on government days, a change is being made in the procedure in respect of government notices of motions. In future these notices shall be called during routine proceedings but, under the terms of the new standing order 20, debatable motions will be automatically transferred to and ordered for consideration under “government orders” in the same or at the next sitting of the House.

Days
Reserved

STANDING ORDER 15 (3)

The present standing order reads as follows:

Order of business day by day.

- (3) The order of business for the consideration of the House, day by day, after the daily routine, shall be as follows:

There is no change in the foregoing section.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 15 (3)

MONDAY—PRIVATE MEMBERS' DAY

Monday—
Private
Members'
day.

(Subject to the provisions of the standing order 57A (3), six Mondays after the day upon which an Address has been agreed to, in answer to His Excellency's speech).

A. (First, second and third Mondays)

Notices of motions for the production of papers.

Notices of motions.

Private bills.

Public bills and orders.

Government orders.

B. (Fourth, fifth and sixth Mondays)

Notices of motions for the production of papers.

Private bills.

Notices of motions.

Public bills and orders.

Government orders.

Days
deferred.

C. Should an order of the day for the House to go into Committee of Supply be called on any of the said Mondays in accordance with the provisions of standing order 57A (3), private Members' days shall be deferred from Monday to Monday until six Mondays have been provided for such business.

The present day to day order of business for Monday reads as follows:

MONDAY (Private Members' Day)

Private bills.

Senate amendments to public bills.

Questions.

Notices of motions.

Public bills and orders.

Government notices of motions.

Government orders.

Monday—
Private
Members'
day.

Private Members' Day—It is proposed that a fixed number of Mondays and Thursdays be set aside as private members' days. In addition to the six Mondays provided for in this amendment, two Thursdays also will be available for private members.

Senate amendments to public bills—It is proposed that this heading be deleted. Formerly, the consideration of Senate amendments to public bills was confined to Monday (Private Members' Day), and after that day was taken over for government business, such amendments could not be taken up unless provided for by a special order. It is proposed that Senate amendments to public bills come up for consideration under "Public bills and orders" in the same manner as Senate amendments to government bills now come under "Government orders", and amendments to private bills under "Private bills". Provision for this procedure is being made in the new standing order 19 (1) (e).

Questions—A new procedure in regard to questions is being proposed in standing order 44, as amended.

Notices of motions for the production of papers—Formerly this heading was carried on the order paper by virtue of standing order 51, and in the motion which provided for the taking over of private members' days for government business, provision was made for the calling of the heading on certain days. Since private members' days will now be fixed by standing order, the inclusion of this heading in the amended standing order will remove the necessity of making a special order in this regard from time to time. The heading will continue to be called on Mondays and Wednesdays, and, in some cases, on Thursdays when that day is a private Members' day.

MONDAY—GOVERNMENT DAY

Monday—
Government
day.

(Any Monday not herein above allotted to private members)

Notices of motions for the production of papers.

Government orders.

Private bills.

Notices of motions.

Public bills and orders.

TUESDAY—GOVERNMENT DAY

Tuesday—
Government
day.

Government orders.

Public bills and orders.

Notices of motions for the production of papers.

Notices of motions.

From five to six o'clock p.m.

Private and public bills, the former having precedence.

Private
and
public
bills.

Bills
not taken
on cer-
tain days.

If a debate on a motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into Committee of Supply be in progress at 5.00 o'clock p.m. on any Tuesday, the consideration of private and public bills shall not be entered upon in that sitting unless the said debate be concluded before 6.00 o'clock p.m.

WEDNESDAY—GOVERNMENT DAY

Wednesday—
Government
day.

Starred questions.

Notices of motions for the production of papers.

Government orders.

Notices of motions.

Public bills and orders.

MONDAY—GOVERNMENT DAY

This is a new section. In future, any Monday not allotted to private Members will be a government day.

The present day to day order of business for Tuesday reads as follows:

TUESDAY (Government Day)
Government notices of motions.

Tuesday—
Government
day.

Government orders.

Public bills and orders.

Questions.

Notices of motions.

(From five to six o'clock p.m.)

Private and public bills, the former having precedence.

The business of questions has been deleted since it is provided for in standing order 44, as amended. The heading government notices of motions has been transferred to standing order 15 (2), as amended.

The present day to day order of business for Wednesday reads as follows:

WEDNESDAY (Private Members' Day)

Wednesday
private
members'
day.

Questions.

Notices of motions.

Public bills and orders.

Government notices of motions.

Government orders.

It is proposed that Wednesdays be fixed as a government day. The new procedure in regard to starred questions is dealt with in standing order 44, as amended. Government notices of motions have been transferred to standing order 15 (2), as amended.

THURSDAY—PRIVATE MEMBERS' DAY

Thursday—
Private
Members'
day.

(Two Thursdays after the day upon which an Address has been agreed to, in answer to His Excellency's Speech).

Public bills and orders.

Notices of motions for the production of papers.

Notices of motions.

Government orders.

THURSDAY—GOVERNMENT DAY

Thursday—
Government
day.

(Any Thursday not herein above allotted to private Members).

Government orders.

Public bills and orders.

Notices of motions for the production of papers.

Notices of motions.

FRIDAY—GOVERNMENT DAY

Friday—
Government
day.

Government orders.

Public bills and orders.

Notices of motions for the production of papers.

Notices of motions.

From five to six o'clock p.m.

Private
and public
bills.

Private and public bills, the former having precedence.

The present day to day order of business for Thursday
(Private Members' Day) reads as follows:

THURSDAY (Private Members' Day)
(First four weeks of session)

Questions.

Public bills and orders.

Notices of motions.

Government notices of motions.

Government orders.

Thursday—
Private
Members'
day.

In addition to the six Mondays provided for private
Members, it is proposed that two Thursdays be fixed for
the same business.

Questions have been provided for in standing order 44,
as amended, and the heading government notices of motions
has been transferred to standing order 15 (2).

The present day to day order of business for Thursday
(Government Day) reads as follows:

THURSDAY (Government Day)
(After the expiry of four weeks)

Questions.

Government notices of motions.

Government Orders.

Public bills and orders.

Notices of motions.

Thursday—
Government
day.

Government notices of motions are now listed under
"routine proceedings"; the procedure in regard to questions
is dealt with in standing order 44, as amended.

The present day to day business for Friday reads as
follows:

FRIDAY (Government Day)
Government notices of motions.

Government orders.

Public bills and orders.

Questions.

Notices of motions.

(From five to six o'clock p.m.)

Private and public bills, the former having
precedence.

Friday—
Government
day.

Government notices of motions are now listed under
"routine proceedings"; the procedure in regard to questions
is dealt with in standing order 44, as amended.

PRESENT STANDING ORDER 15 (4)

To be deleted.

Thursday
Private
Members
day.

In addition to the six Mondays provided for private Members it is proposed that two Thursdays be fixed for the same business.

Questions have been provided for in standing order 44 as amended, and the heading government notices of motions

NEW STANDING ORDER 15 (4)

Notices
not
printed.

(4) Notwithstanding the listing of "Notices of motions" as an item of daily business in section (3) of this order, such notices shall not be printed on the order paper after the fifth sitting day following the expiry of Monday as a private Members' day.

Thursday
Government
day.

NEW STANDING ORDER 15A

Proceedings
on private
and public
bills.

The proceedings on private and public bills on a Tuesday or a Friday, except as provided in standing orders 15 (3) and 38A, shall not be suspended by virtue of the operation of the provisions of standing orders relating to the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance or to the allocation of time to certain debates.

Thursday
Government
day.

STANDING ORDER 15(4)

The present standing order 15(4) reads as follows:

(4) After a private or public bill has been considered on Tuesday and Friday and debate thereon has been adjourned or interrupted at 6 o'clock, it shall be placed at the foot of the list of such bills on the order paper.

Bills
placed
at foot
of list.

Since this standing order relates to precedence on the daily order paper its substance has been transferred to standing order 19(2), as amended.

NEW STANDING ORDER 15 (4)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Under the present practice private Members' "notices of motions" are printed daily throughout the session in accordance with the provisions of the present standing order 15 (3). Since it will be impossible under the amended standing order 15 (3) to consider such business after the expiry of private Members' days, it is proposed that the printing of such notices be discontinued on a specified day.

NEW STANDING ORDER 15A

PROCEEDINGS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BILLS

The purpose of this amendment is to remove any doubt in regard to the suspension of the private and public bill hour on Tuesdays and Fridays. Except during the debate on the motion for an Address in reply to His Excellency's speech and for debates on the motions to go into committee of supply, the proceedings on private and public bills will not be otherwise suspended.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 17 (1) AND (2)

Precedence.

(1) All items standing on the orders of the day, except government orders, shall be taken up according to the precedence assigned to each on the order paper.

Government orders.

(2) Except as provided in standing order 57A, government orders may be called in such sequence as the Government may think fit.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 19 (1)

Precedence on order paper.

(1) The day to day precedence on the order paper, except as otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

(a) Third reading of bills.

(b) Reports received from committees of the whole House.

(c) Bills reported after second reading from any standing or special committee for reference to a committee of the whole House.

(d) Bills ordered by the House for reference to a committee of the whole House.

(e) Senate amendments to bills.

(f) Second reading of bills.

(g) Other orders according to the date thereof.

STANDING ORDER 17

The present standing order 17 (1) and (2) read as follows:

(1) All items standing on the orders of the day (except government orders) shall be taken up according to the precedence assigned to each on the order paper.

Precedence.

(2) Whenever government business has precedence, government orders may be called in such sequence as the Government may think fit.

Government orders.

The provisions of the new standing order 57A assign precedence to the order for the House to go into committee of supply on certain days and, pursuant to that provision, a consequential amendment is being made in standing order 17 (2).

NEW STANDING ORDER 19 (1)

The present standing order 19 reads as follows:

Orders of the day for the third reading of bills shall take precedence of all other orders for the same day, except orders to which the House has previously given priority.

Precedence to third reading.

In order to obtain a simple and uniform rule to regulate the order of precedence on the daily order paper, it is proposed that the provisions of standing orders 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 be consolidated into a new standing order 19. Except as otherwise stated in the comments under each of the standing orders mentioned herein, no change in practice is being proposed.

NEW STANDING ORDER 19 (2)

Private members' business.

(2) After any bill or other order in the name of a private member has been considered in the House or in any committee of the whole and any proceeding thereon has been adjourned or interrupted, the said bill or order shall be placed on the order paper for the next sitting at the foot of the list under the respective heading for such bills or orders.

STANDING ORDER 20

To be deleted.

NEW STANDING ORDER 19 (2)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The practice in regard to private members' business is not consistent. Under the present standing order 15 (4) bills are dropped to the bottom of the list after being debated on a Tuesday or a Friday but under the present standing order 110 (2) a private bill considered in a committee of the whole on the said days remains at the top of the list for consideration at the next sitting.

In order that a uniform principle may be established, this new section proposes that after any bill, motion or order in the name of a private member has been considered at any sitting, it shall be placed at the foot of the list of bills or orders under its respective heading on the order paper.

STANDING ORDER 20

The present standing order 20 reads as follows:

Reports received from committee of the whole House shall be placed on the orders of the day next after third readings; and bills reported from committee of the whole House with amendment shall be placed on the orders of the day next after reports from committee of the whole House.

Bills reported from committee of the whole.

The substance of this order is now section (1) (b) of standing order 19. Since under present practice amendments made to a bill in committee of the whole are received and concurred in forthwith and the bill is then either read a third time or it is ordered for a third reading at the next sitting of the House, the proviso dealing with "bills reported from a committee of the whole House with amendment" is not included in standing order 19, as amended.

NEW STANDING ORDER 20

Government notices of motions.

(1) Government notices of motions for the House to go into a committee of the whole at the next sitting of the House when put from the Chair shall be decided without debate or amendment.

Transferred to government orders.

(2) When any other government notice of motion is called from the Chair, it shall be deemed to have been forthwith transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders in the same or at the next sitting of the House.

STANDING ORDER 21

To be deleted.

STANDING ORDER 20

The present standing order 20 reads as follows:

Bill
read
from
committee
at
the
next
sitting

Reports received from committee of the whole House shall be placed on the orders of the day next after third reading; and bills reported from committee of the whole House with amendment shall be placed on the orders of the day next after reports from committee of the whole House.

The substance of this order is now section (1) (b) of standing order 19. Since under present practice amendments made to a bill in committee of the whole are received and counted in forthwith and the bill is then either read a third time or it is ordered for a third reading at the next sitting of the House. Bills reported from a committee of the whole House with amendment is not included in standing order 19.

STANDING ORDER 22

To be deleted.

NEW STANDING ORDER 20

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTIONS

This amendment proposes a procedure whereby debatable government notices of motions, to be called in future during "routine proceedings", shall be transferred to government orders and thereby allow the House to proceed to "orders of the day" at an early hour on government days.

It is proposed that when a debatable government notice of motion is called by Mr. Speaker, the Minister in whose name it stands shall respond by saying, "government order", and thereupon it will be forthwith transferred to government orders and considered in the same or at the next sitting of the House.

STANDING ORDER 21

The present standing order 21 reads as follows:

Bills reported after second reading from any standing or special committee shall be placed on the orders of the day following the reception of the report, for reference to a committee of the whole House, in their proper order next after bills reported from committees of the whole House. And bills ordered by the House for reference to a committee of the whole House shall be placed, for such reference, on the orders of the day following the order of reference in their proper order, next after bills reported from any standing or special committee.

Bills reported from standing or special committees.

The provisions of this standing order are covered by subclauses (c) and (d) of standing order 19 as amended.

STANDING ORDER 22

The present standing order 22 reads as follows:

Bills originating in the Senate and sent to this House for concurrence shall be placed for first reading on the order paper under the heading "Routine Proceedings", immediately after "Introduction of Bills".

Senate bills sent for concurrence.

Since public bills from the Senate are listed on the order paper by virtue of standing order 15 (2) and private bills are to be given a *pro forma* first reading in accordance with the new standing order 102 (2), the foregoing order is no longer required.

20 STANDING ORDER 23

To be deleted.

of to amend... Government... This amendment proposes a procedure whereby debatable government notices of motions to be called in future during "routine proceedings" shall be transferred to government orders and thereby allow the House to proceed to "orders of the day" at an early hour on government days. It is proposed that when a debatable government notice of motion is called by Mr. Speaker, the Minister in whose name it stands shall respond by saying "government order," and thereupon it will be forthwith transferred to government orders and considered in the same or at the next sitting of the House.

STANDING ORDER 21

The present standing order 21 reads as follows:

Bills reported after second reading from any standing or special committee shall be placed on the orders of the day for the report for the whole House, in their proper order next after bills ordered by the House of the whole House. And bills ordered by the House for reference to a committee of the whole House shall be placed, for such reference, on the orders of the day following the order of reference in their proper order next after bills reported from any standing or special committee.

Bills reported after second reading from any standing or special committee shall be placed on the orders of the day for the report for the whole House, in their proper order next after bills ordered by the House of the whole House. And bills ordered by the House for reference to a committee of the whole House shall be placed, for such reference, on the orders of the day following the order of reference in their proper order next after bills reported from any standing or special committee.

STANDING ORDER 24

To be deleted.

The provisions of this standing order are covered by subclauses (c) and (d) of standing order 19 as amended.

STANDING ORDER 27

To be deleted.

The present standing order 27 reads as follows:

Senate bills sent for consideration to the Senate and sent to this House for concurrence shall be placed for first reading on the order paper under the heading "Routine Proceedings", immediately after "Introduction of Bills".

Bills originating in the Senate and sent to this House for concurrence shall be placed for first reading on the order paper under the heading "Routine Proceedings", immediately after "Introduction of Bills".

Since public bills from the Senate are listed on the order paper by virtue of standing order 15 (2) and private bills are to be given a pro forma first reading in accordance with the new standing order 102 (2), the foregoing order is no longer required.

STANDING ORDER 23

The present Standing Order 23 reads as follows:

Public bills returned to the House from the Senate with amendments shall be placed on the order paper for the consideration of such amendments on Monday immediately after private bills.

Commons public bills amended by the Senate.

In the past when Mondays were taken up as government days it was impossible, unless a special order were made, to consider Senate amendments to a public bill standing in the name of a private Member. Since the heading "Senate amendments to public bills" has been deleted from "Monday (Private Members' Day)" in standing order 15 (3), as amended, the said amendments will now take precedence under "public bills and orders" in pursuance of the new standing order 19 (1) (e). This procedure will be the same as that which obtains in respect of amendments to both government and private bills.

STANDING ORDER 24

The present standing order 24 reads as follows:

Amendments made by the Senate to bills other than public bills originating in this House shall be placed on the orders of the day next after bills ordered by the House for reference to a committee of the whole House.

Senate amendments to government and private bills.

The terms of this standing order are covered by subclause (e) of the new standing order 19 (1).

STANDING ORDER 27

The present standing order 27 reads as follows:

If at the hour of six o'clock p.m. on a Wednesday, or at the time of the adjournment of the House, a motion on the notice paper be under consideration, that question shall stand first on the order paper of the following day, next after orders to which a special precedence has been assigned by standing order or order of the House.

Wednesday adjournment.

This standing order applies to private Members' business on Wednesdays and since that day is now fixed as a government day, it is proposed that it be deleted.

STANDING ORDER 28

To be renumbered 57A.

Commons
Public
Bills
amended
by the
Senate

Public bills returned to the House from the Senate with amendments shall be placed on the order paper for the consideration of such amendments on Mondays immediately after private bills.

In the past when Mondays were taken up as government days it was impossible unless a special order were made to consider Senate amendments to a public bill standing in the name of a private Member. Since the heading "Senate amendments to public bills" has been deleted from Monday (Private Members' Day) in standing order 15 (3) as amended, the said amendments will now take precedence under "public bills and orders" in pursuance of the new standing order 19 (1) (a). This procedure will be amended.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 31 (1)

Adjournment for special purposes.

(1) Leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the House when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance must be asked after starred questions on Wednesdays and on other days after 15 (2), has been concluded.

Senate
amended
motions
to
Government
and private
bills

Amendments made by the Senate to bills other than public bills originating in the House shall be placed on the orders of the day next after bills ordered by the House for reference to a committee of the whole House.

The terms of this standing order are covered by subclause (a) of the new standing order 19 (1).

STANDING ORDER 32

To be deleted.

Wednesday
without
notice

It is the House's practice on a Wednesday or at the time of the adjournment of the House a motion on the notice paper be under consideration that question shall stand first on the order paper of the following day, next after orders to which a special precedence has been assigned by standing order or order of the House.

This standing order applies to private Members' business on Wednesdays and since that day is now fixed as a government day, it is proposed that it be deleted.

STANDING ORDER 28

The present standing order 28 reads as follows:

On Thursdays and Fridays when the order of the day is called for the House to go into committee of supply, or of ways and means, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without putting any question, provided that, except by the unanimous consent of the House, the estimates of each department shall be first taken up on a day other than Thursday or Friday.

Leaving
the
Chair on
Thursday
and Friday.

In an effort to group the standing orders dealing with the committee of supply, this standing order, as amended, has been temporarily renumbered 57A and transferred accordingly.

STANDING ORDER 31

The present standing order 31(1) reads as follows:

(1) Leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the House (when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance) must be asked after the ordinary daily routine of business (standing order 15) has been concluded and before notices of motions or orders of the day are entered upon.

Adjourn-
ment for
special
purposes.

A new procedure in respect of questions is being proposed in standing order 44, as amended, and in order to ensure the calling of "starred questions" it is recommended that the words, "after starred questions on Wednesdays and on other days", be inserted in this standing order.

In deleting the underlined words at the end of the present standing order, it is intended to state more clearly the stage at which leave should be requested to move the adjournment of the House.

STANDING ORDER 32

The present standing order 32 reads as follows:

This House doth consent that its Journals may be searched by the Senate, in like manner as this House may, according to parliamentary usage, search the Journals of the Senate.

Search of
Journals.

Since copies of the *Votes and Proceedings* of the House are printed and distributed daily to members and officers of the Senate, the provisions of this standing order are obsolete.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 37

Speeches
limited to
40 minutes.

When Mr. Speaker is in the Chair, no Member, except the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, or a Minister moving a government order and the Member speaking in reply immediately after such Minister, or a Member making a motion of "no confidence" in the Government and a Minister replying thereto, shall speak for more than forty minutes at a time in any debate.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 38 (1) (a)

Debatable
motions.

(1) The following motions are debatable:
Every motion:

(a) standing on the order of proceedings for the day, except as otherwise provided in these standing orders;

STANDING ORDER 37

The present standing order 37 reads as follows:

No member, except the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, or a minister moving a government order and the member speaking in reply immediately after such minister, or a member making a motion of "no confidence" in the Government and a minister replying thereto, shall speak for more than forty minutes at a time in any debate.

Speeches
limited
to 40
minutes.

Since it is proposed to place a limitation of thirty minutes on speeches in committees of the whole, the provisions of this standing order now apply only when Mr. Speaker is in the Chair.

STANDING ORDER 38 (1) (a)

The present standing order 38 (1) reads as follows:

- (1) The following motions are debatable:
(a) every motion standing on the order of proceedings for the day (except government notices of motion for the House to go into committee at a later date);

Debatable
motions.

This amendment is intended to clarify the terms of sub-clause 1 (a) of standing order 38. In the past there were a number of exceptions to the rule, and several other exceptions will be added if the proposals in this report are adopted. To avoid any misunderstanding in the future, a proviso in general terms has been added.

NEW STANDING ORDER 38A

Address
debate.

(1) The proceedings on the order of the day for resuming debate on the motion for an address in reply to His Excellency's speech and on any amendments proposed thereto shall not exceed ten sitting days.

Appointed
days.

(2) Any day or days to be appointed for the consideration of the said order shall be announced from time to time by a Minister of the Crown and on any such day or days this order shall have precedence of all other business except the ordinary daily routine of business.

Precedence.

Subamend-
ment
disposed
of.

(3) On the sixth of the said days, if a subamendment be under consideration at fifteen minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put the question on the said subamendment.

Amendments
disposed
of.

(4) On the ninth of the said days, if any amendment be under consideration at thirty minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put the question on any amendment or amendments then before the House.

Debate
concluded.

(5) On the tenth of the said days, at thirty minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, unless the said debate be previously concluded, Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion.

NEW STANDING ORDER 38A

DEBATE ON MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

This proposal will provide a fixed number of days for proceedings on the Speech from the Throne. It is intended that, beginning on the day after the "traditional leaders' day", morning sittings be held, except on Wednesdays, during the course of the said debate.

Clause (2) provides for the appointment of days and for precedence to the said debate.

Clause (3) provides for the disposal of the first sub-amendment on the motion for an Address.

In clause (4), provision is made for the disposal of a further subamendment and the main amendment.

Clause (5) relates to the concluding stage of the said debate.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 41

No Member shall speak in respect 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. No Member may refer upon any vote of the House, except for the purpose of moving that such vote be rescinded.

Time
of
the
day
and
the
order
of
debate
shall
be
determined
by
the
Speaker.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 39

Closure.

Immediately before the order of the day for resuming an adjourned debate is called, or if the House be in committee of the whole, or of supply, or of ways and means, any Minister of the Crown who, standing in his place, shall have given notice at a previous sitting of his intention so to do, may move that the debate shall not be further adjourned, or that the further consideration of any resolution or resolutions, clause or clauses, section or sections, preamble or preambles, title or titles, shall be the first business of the committee, and shall not further be postponed; and in either case such question shall be decided without debate or amendment; and if the same shall be resolved in the affirmative, no Member shall thereafter speak more than once, or longer than twenty minutes in any such adjourned debate; or, if in committee, on any such resolution, clause, section, preamble or title; and if such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall not have been resumed or concluded before one o'clock in the morning, no Member shall rise to speak after that hour, but all such questions as must be decided in order to conclude such adjourned debate or postponed consideration, shall be decided forthwith.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 41

Disrespectful or offensive language forbidden.

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. No Member may reflect upon any vote of the House, except for the purpose of moving that such vote be rescinded.

STANDING ORDER 39

The present Standing Order 39 reads as follows:

Immediately before the order of the day for resuming an adjourned debate is called, or if the House be in committee of the whole, or of supply, or of ways and means, any minister of the Crown who, standing in his place, shall have given notice at a previous sitting of his intention so to do, may move that the debate shall not be further adjourned, or that the further consideration of any resolution or resolutions, clause or clauses, section or sections, preamble or preambles, title or titles, shall be the first business of the committee, and shall not further be postponed; and in either case such question shall be decided without debate or amendment; and if the same shall be resolved in the affirmative, no member shall thereafter speak more than once, or longer than twenty minutes in any such adjourned debate; or, if in committee, on any such resolution, clause, section, preamble or title; and if such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall not have been resumed or concluded before *two of the clock* in the morning, no member shall rise to speak after that hour, but all such questions as must be decided in order to conclude such adjourned debate or postponed consideration, shall be decided forthwith.

Closure.

This amendment proposes to advance by one hour the operation of closure proceedings to correspond with the recent one hour advancement of the daily adjournment.

STANDING ORDER 41

The present standing order 41 reads as follows:

No member shall speak disrespectfully of Her Majesty, nor of any of the Royal Family, nor of the Governor or person administering the Government of Canada; nor use offensive words against either House, or against any member thereof. No member may reflect upon any vote of the House, except for the purpose of moving that such vote be rescinded.

Disrespectful or offensive language forbidden.

The amendment to this order is one of form only.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 44

Questions
put to
Ministers.

(1) Questions may be placed on the order paper seeking information from Ministers of the Crown relating to public affairs; and from other Members, relating to any bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the House, in which such Members may be concerned; but in putting any such question or in replying to the same no argument or opinion is to be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain the same; and in answering any such question the matter to which the same refers shall not be debated.

Oral
answers.

(2) (a) Any Member who requires an oral answer to his question may distinguish it by an asterisk and it shall be printed on the daily order paper under the heading "Starred Questions" until it be disposed of.

Starred
questions.

(b) Starred questions shall be taken up on Wednesdays after the ordinary daily routine of business has been disposed of and not later than one hour after the time of meeting of the House. If proceedings thereon be not concluded at the expiration of one hour after such business has been entered upon, such starred questions as have not been taken up shall stand over until the next Wednesday sitting.

Starred
questions
limited.

(c) No Member shall have more than three starred questions at a time on the daily order paper.

Starred
questions
printed
daily.

(d) On every day other than Wednesday, Starred Questions shall follow the last order of business listed for the respective day on the daily order paper.

Printed
answers.

(3) (a) If a Member does not distinguish his question by an asterisk, it shall be printed on the daily order paper under the heading "Questions" until it be disposed of, and the Minister to whom the question is addressed may deposit the answer with the Clerk of the House, during the first hour of a daily sitting and, if the answer is so deposited, it shall be printed in the official reports of the debates of the same day.

Questions
printed
daily.

(b) "Questions" shall be printed as the last section of the daily order paper.

STANDING ORDER 44

Questions
put to
ministers.

The present standing order 44 reads as follows:

(1) Questions may be placed on the order paper seeking information from ministers of the Crown relating to public affairs; and from other members, relating to any bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the House, in which such members may be concerned; but in putting any such question or in replying to the same no argument or opinion is to be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain the same; and in answering any such question the matter to which the same refers shall not be debated.

Questions
put to
ministers.

(2) (a) Any member who requires an oral answer to his question may distinguish it by an asterisk.

Oral
answer.

(b) If a member does not distinguish his question by an asterisk, the minister to whom the question is addressed hands the answer to the Clerk of the House who causes it to be printed in the official reports of the debates.

Printed
answer.

(3) If, in the opinion of Mr. Speaker, a question on the order paper put to a Minister of the Crown is of such a nature as to require a lengthy reply, he may, upon the request of the Government, direct the same to stand as a notice of motion, and to be transferred to its proper place as such upon the order paper, the Clerk of the House being authorized to amend the same as to matters of form.

Question
to stand
as notice.

(4) If a question is of such a nature that, in the opinion of the minister who is to furnish the reply, such reply should be in the form of a return, and the minister states that he has no objection to laying such return upon the Table of the House, his statement shall, unless otherwise ordered by the House, be deemed an order of the House to that effect and the same shall be entered in the votes and proceedings as such.

Question
made
order for
return.

The change being proposed in the procedure dealing with questions may be summarized as follows:

All questions shall be printed on the daily order paper until answered or otherwise disposed of;

Questions shall be listed under two headings, namely:

1. "Starred Questions"; that is, questions distinguished by asterisks, to indicate that oral answers thereto are required.
2. "Questions"; that is, questions to which written replies may be given.

Questions to stand as notice.

(4) If, in the opinion of Mr. Speaker, a question on the order paper put to a Minister of the Crown is of such a nature as to require a lengthy reply, he may, upon a request made by the government during the question period on Wednesday, direct the same to stand as a notice of motion, and to be transferred to its proper place as such upon the order paper, the Clerk of the House being authorized to amend the same as to matters of form.

Question made order for return.

(5) If a question is of such a nature that, in the opinion of the Minister who is to furnish the reply, such reply should be in the form of a return, and, during the question period on Wednesday, the Minister states that he has no objection to laying such return upon the Table of the House, his statement shall, unless otherwise ordered by the House, be deemed an order of the House to that effect and the same shall be entered in the *Votes and Proceedings* as such.

"Starred Questions" shall be called on Wednesdays, at which time Mr. Speaker shall call the question number and also the name of the Member who has submitted the "Starred Question", and the Minister or Member to whom the question is directed may give an oral reply thereto.

On other days "Starred Questions" shall be printed in the daily "order paper" and the section containing the same shall follow the last order of business for the respective day as set forth in standing order 15 (3).

Questions for which written replies are requested shall be printed daily in a section of the "order paper" headed "Questions" and this section shall be the last section of the daily "order paper".

Answers to unstarred questions may be deposited with a Clerk at the Table of the House at any time before the expiry of the first hour of a daily sitting and the answers so deposited shall be printed in *Hansard* of the same day. In order to ensure that the printing routine of *Hansard* be not interrupted, answers to questions deposited after the first hour of a daily sitting shall be held over until the next sitting.

When it is desired to have any starred questions passed as an "order for return", or to have any such questions stand as a "notice of motion", a Minister will so indicate when the said question is called on a Wednesday.

When it is desired to have any unstarred question passed as an "order for return", or to have any such question stand as a "notice of motion", a Minister will so indicate at the close of the starred question period on Wednesdays.

Clause 1—no change is being proposed.

Clause 2 (a) provides for a new heading on the "order paper", namely, "Starred Questions".

Clause 2 (b) provides for the calling of starred questions on Wednesdays, not later than one hour after the opening of the House, and for a limitation of one hour on proceedings on starred questions.

Clause 2 (c) provides that no member may have more than three starred questions at a time on the daily order paper.

NEW STANDING ORDER 44A

Returns, reports deposited with Clerk.

(1) Any return, report or other paper required to be laid before the House in accordance with any act of Parliament or in pursuance of any resolution or standing order of this House may be deposited with the Clerk of the House on any sitting day, and such return, report or other paper shall be deemed for all purposes to have been presented to or laid before the House.

Recorded in Votes and Proceedings.

(2) A record of any such return, report or other paper so deposited shall be entered in the *Votes and Proceedings* of the same day.

Clause 2 (d) provides for the daily printing of such questions.

Clause 3 (a) spells out the procedure in respect of unstarred questions.

Clause 3 (b) provides for the daily printing of such questions.

Clause 4 contains a consequential amendment spelling out the procedure in respect of the transfer of questions, starred and unstarred, to "notices of motions".

Clause 5 contains a consequential amendment in respect of questions, starred and unstarred, passed as "orders for returns".

NEW STANDING ORDER 44A

DEPOSITING OF REPORTS AND RETURNS

This standing order provides a procedure whereby returns, annual departmental reports and other papers which are presented to or laid before the House from time to time may be deposited on any sitting day with the Clerk of the House and thereby eliminate the formal presentation of such returns, reports, etc., during a sitting of the House.

Clause 2 of this order authorizes the Clerk of the House to record the tabling of such returns in the *Votes and Proceedings* for the day on which such returns, etc., are deposited with him.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 51

Production
of papers.

Notices of motion for the production of papers which the Member asking for the same intends to move without discussion, shall be marked by him with an asterisk and shall be placed by the Clerk on the order paper under the heading "Notices of motions for the production of papers". All such notices when called shall be forthwith disposed of; but if on any such motion a debate be desired, it will be transferred by the Clerk to the order of "Notices of Motions".

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 53

Withdrawal
of motion.

A Member who has made a motion may withdraw the same only by the unanimous consent of the House.

STANDING ORDER 51

The present standing order 51 reads as follows:

Notices of motion for the production of papers which the member asking for the same intends to move without discussion, shall be marked by him with an asterisk and shall be placed by the Clerk on the order paper above "Notices of motions" under the heading "Notices of motions for the production of papers". All such notices when called shall be forthwith disposed of; but if on any such motion a debate be desired, it will be transferred by the Clerk to the order of "Notices of Motions".

For
production
of papers.

It is proposed that the words "above 'Notices of motions'" be deleted from the foregoing standing order. Formerly, when Mondays and Wednesdays were taken up as government days, this heading was called by virtue of the terms of a resolution of the House. In standing order 15 (3), as amended, the heading "notices of motions for the production of papers" has been listed as an order of business to be called on the same days as it was called in past sessions; namely, Mondays and Wednesdays, and in some cases on Thursdays when the latter day is a private Members' day. No change in practice is being proposed.

STANDING ORDER 53

The present standing order 53 reads as follows:

A member who has made a motion may withdraw the same by leave of the House, such leave being granted without any negative voice.

Withdrawal
of motion.

This standing order has been redrafted in order to clarify its provisions but no change in practice is being proposed.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 56 (1) AND (2)

Election
of Deputy
Speaker.

(1) A Chairman of Committees who shall also be Deputy Speaker of the House shall be elected at the commencement of every Parliament; and the Member so elected shall, if in his place in the House, take the Chair of all committees of the whole, including the committees of Supply, and Ways and Means, in accordance with the usages which regulate the duties of a similar officer, generally designated the Chairman of the Committees of Ways and Means, in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Official
languages.

(2) The Member elected to serve as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees shall be required to possess the full and practical knowledge of the official language which is not that of Mr. Speaker for the time being.

NEW STANDING ORDER 56A

Orders for
House in
committees
of the
whole.

Except as provided in standing orders 57A and 57C, when an order of the day is read for the House to resolve itself into any committee of the whole, the question "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" shall be decided without debate or amendment.

STANDING ORDER 56 (1) and (2)

The present standing order 56 reads as follows:

(1) A Chairman of Committees who shall also be Deputy Speaker of the House shall be elected at the commencement of every parliament, as soon as an address has been agreed to in answer to His Excellency's Speech; and the member so elected shall, if in his place in the House, take the Chair of all committees of the whole, including the committees of supply, and ways and means, in accordance with the usages which regulate the duties of a similar officer, generally designated the Chairman of the Committees of Ways and Means, in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(2) The member elected to serve as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees shall be required to possess the full and practical knowledge of the language which is not that of Mr. Speaker for the time being.

To allow for the election of a Deputy Speaker at the outset of the first session in a new Parliament, the words "as soon as an Address has been agreed to in answer to His Excellency's Speech" have been deleted from section (1) of this order.

The word "official" has been inserted before the word "language" in section (2) thereof.

NEW STANDING ORDER 56A

Orders for House in Committee of the Whole

This amendment spells out the practice in respect of putting the question, without debate, on any motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into a committee of the whole. Standing orders 57A and 57C relate to the committees of supply and of ways and means.

NEW STANDING ORDER 57A

Leaving
Chair on
certain
days.

(1) On Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, when the order of the day is called for the House to go into Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without question put, provided that, except by the unanimous consent of the House, the estimates of each department shall be first taken up on a Monday or a Tuesday.

Six
motions
on
Monday.

(2) On the first six occasions in any session upon which an order for Supply is called for the purpose of moving, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair", it must stand as the first order of the day on a Monday. If a debate on any of the said six motions be not concluded on Monday, the order for the resumption of that debate shall be set down as the first order of the day for the next Tuesday sitting.

Appointed
days.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 15 (3), a Minister of the Crown may request at a prior sitting that any Monday after an Address has been agreed to, in answer to His Excellency's speech, be appointed for the consideration of the order for Supply and, thereupon, the said Monday shall be deemed to have been so appointed.

Debate
on motion.

(4) (a) No debate on any motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into Committee of Supply and on any amendments proposed thereto, except as hereinafter provided, shall exceed two sitting days.

Unused
time.

(b) Should a debate on any of the first five of the said six motions be concluded before the expiry of the two sitting days allowed for each debate, the unused time may be added in whole or in part to the two-day allowance for debate on the next or on any subsequent one of the said six motions to go into Supply.

Debate
not con-
cluded on
Tuesday.

(c) When a debate on any of the said six motions is not concluded on a Tuesday because unused time in a former debate has been carried forward, the provisions of section (1) of this standing order shall be suspended and the order for the resumption of any such debate may be called on any government day.

NEW STANDING ORDER 57A

Committee of Supply

The present standing order 28 reads as follows:

28. On Thursdays and Fridays when the order of the day is called for the House to go into committee of supply, or of ways and means, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without putting any question, provided that, except by the unanimous consent of the House, the estimates of each department shall be first taken up on a day other than Thursday or Friday.

This proposal provides for a minimum of six motions to go into committee of supply with a two-day allowance for debate on each of the said six motions and continues the former provision whereby a motion must always be made on certain days in order to put the House into committee of supply on the main estimates.

It also provides for the adding of Wednesdays to the days on which the House goes into committee of supply without question put.

In clause (2) it is provided that the order for supply shall be the first order of the day on a Monday when it is taken for the first six times in a session in order to put the House into committee of supply on the main estimates.

Clause (3) provides for the appointment of certain Mondays for the consideration of the order for supply.

Clause (4) (a) provides for an allowance of two days for each debate.

In clause (4) (b) it is provided that any unused portion of a two-day allowance may be added to the next or any subsequent one of the first six motions to go into supply. Unused time shall begin from the moment Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

Clause (4) (c) provides for the continuing of unfinished debates on a Wednesday, Thursday or a Friday, if the government thinks it is desirable to do so.

Leaving
the chair
on Thurs-
day and
Friday.

Second
motion
proposed

Question
put on
main
motion

Depart-
ments
first
taken up

Interim
supply and
supplemen-
tary
estimates

Questions
put on
amend-
ments.

(d) If any amendment be under consideration at 8.15 o'clock p.m. on the second day of any debate or at the beginning of the two-hour period before the expiry of time carried forward from a former debate, as the case may be, Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put the question on any amendment or amendments then before the House.

Second
motion
proposed.

(e) When a motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" is superseded by the adoption of an amendment at any time before the expiry of either the said two days or the time carried forward from a former debate, as the case may be, a like motion may be forthwith made by a Minister of the Crown. In the event of any such motion being proposed, the proceedings thereon shall be deemed to be an extension of the debate concluded by the adoption of the said amendment; provided that the second motion shall not be subject to amendment if it is proposed after the time specified in section (4) (d) of this standing order.

Question
put on
main
motion.

(f) A ten o'clock p.m. on the second day of any debate or at the expiry of the time carried forward from a former debate, as the case may be, unless the said debate be previously concluded, Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion; and, if it be decided in the affirmative, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Depart-
ments
first
taken up.

(5) When the House resolves itself into Committee of Supply in pursuance of the adoption of each of the said six motions, the estimates of the several departments of government shall be forthwith first taken up and entered for consideration, as follows:

- (a) six departments on the first occasion;
- (b) three departments on each of the next four occasions;
- (c) all other departments on the sixth occasion.

Interim
supply and
supplemen-
tary
estimates.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of section (1) of this standing order, when an order of the day is called for the House to go into Committee of Supply to consider either interim supply or supplementary estimates, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without question put.

Clause (4) (d) provides for the disposal of amendments at a specified hour.

Clause (4) (e) provides for a second motion if the first motion to go into Supply is amended.

Clause (4) (f) provides for the disposal of the main motion at a specified hour.

Clause (5) provides for the forthwith calling of the estimates of a specified number of departments on each of the first six occasions on which the House goes into Supply.

In clause (6) it is provided that when the House goes into committee of Supply to consider interim supply or supplementary estimates, no motion is made.

Estimates
to come
minutes

Order for
House in
ways and
means

Budget
debate

Order
called

Question
put on
amendment
new

Question
put on
amendment

NEW STANDING ORDER 57B

Estimates referred to committees.

A motion, to be decided without debate or amendment, may be made without notice during routine proceedings by a Minister of the Crown withdrawing any item or items in the estimates from the Committee of Supply and referring the same to any standing or special committee and, upon report from any such committee, the said item or items shall stand referred to the Committee of Supply.

NEW STANDING ORDER 57C

Order for House in ways and means.

(1) When an order of the day is called for the House to go into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without question put, but the provisions of this section shall not apply when the said order is called for the purpose of enabling a Minister of the Crown to make the budget presentation.

Budget debate.

(2) The proceedings on the order of the day for resuming debate on the motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means (Budget) and on any amendments proposed thereto shall not exceed eight sitting days.

First order called.

(3) When the order for resuming the said debate is called, it must stand as the first order of the day and, unless it be disposed of, no other government order shall be considered in the same sitting.

Question put on subamendment.

(4) On the fifth of the said days, if a subamendment be under consideration at fifteen minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment or, when the fifth day is a Friday, at 4.45 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put the question on the said subamendment.

Question put on amendment.

(5) On the seventh of the said days, if an amendment be under consideration at fifteen minutes before the ordinary time of adjournment or, when the seventh day is a Friday, at 4.45 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put the question on the said amendment.

NEW STANDING ORDER 57B

Estimates referred to Committees

This proposal will provide a non-debatable routine procedure for the reference of estimates to standing or special committees.

NEW STANDING ORDER 57C

Committee of Ways and Means

This proposal will provide a fixed number of days for proceedings on the budget debate.

In clause (1) it is provided that the motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into committee of ways and means, shall be made on one occasion only.

Clause (2) provides eight days for the said proceedings.

In clause (3) it is provided that the said order shall be the first order of the day.

Clause (4) provides for the disposal of the sub-amendment.

Clause (5) provides for the disposal of the main amendment.

House goes
into ways
and means.

(6) On the eighth of the said days, at fifteen minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment or, when the eighth day is a Friday, at 4.45 o'clock p.m., unless the debate be previously concluded, Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put the question on the main motion; and, if it be decided in the affirmative, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 58

Standing
orders of
the House
observed.

(1) The standing orders of the House shall be observed in the committees of the whole House so far as may be applicable, except the standing orders as to the seconding of motions, limiting the number of times of speaking and the length of speeches.

Relevancy.

(2) Speeches in committee of the whole House must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

Speeches
limited to
30 minutes.

(3) No member, except the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, shall speak for more than thirty minutes at a time in any committee of the whole House.

Order in
committees.

(4) The chairman shall maintain order in the committees of the whole House, deciding all questions of order subject to an appeal to the House; but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the House, on receiving a report thereof.

NEW STANDING ORDER 60A

Resolutions
concurring
in
forthwith.

Whenever a resolution is reported from any committee of the whole, a motion to concur in the same shall be forthwith put and decided without debate or amendment.

Clause (6) relates to the concluding stage of the said debate.

STANDING ORDER 58

The present standing order 58 reads as follows:

(1) The standing orders of the House shall be observed in the committees of the whole House so far as may be applicable, except the standing orders as to the seconding of motions and limiting the number of times of speaking.

Standing orders of the House observed.

(2) Speeches in committee of the whole House must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

Relevancy.

(3) The Chairman shall maintain order in the committees of the whole House, deciding all questions of order subject to an appeal to the House; but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the House, on receiving a report thereof.

Order.

This proposal will place a thirty-minute limitation on speeches in any committee of the whole.

NEW STANDING ORDER 60A

Resolutions concurred in forthwith

In the past resolutions reported from committee of the whole House, the committee of ways and means, and in some cases from the committee of supply were concurred in forthwith. The purpose of this amendment is to make the procedure uniform in all cases.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 65

Special committees.

(1) No special committee may, without leave of the House, consist of more than fifteen Members; such leave shall not be moved for without notice; and in the case of Members proposed to be added, after the first appointment of the committee, a new notice shall be given including the names of the Members proposed to be added.

Quorum.

(2) A majority of the Members of a special committee shall be a quorum unless the House has otherwise ordered.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 69

Introduction.

(1) Every bill is introduced upon motion for leave specifying the title of the bill; or upon motion to appoint a committee to prepare and bring it in.

Explanation of provisions.

(2) A motion for leave to introduce a bill shall be decided without debate or amendment, provided that any Member moving for such leave may be permitted to give a succinct explanation of the provisions of the said bill.

STANDING ORDER 65

The present standing order 65 reads as follows:

(1) No special committee may, without leave of the House, consist of more than fifteen members; such leave shall not be moved for without notice; and in the case of members proposed to be added or substituted, after the first appointment of the committee, a new notice shall be given including the names of the members proposed to be added or substituted.

Special committees.

(2) It shall always be understood that no member who declares or decides against the principle of a bill, resolution, or matter to be committed, can be nominated of such committee.

Members excluded if against principle of question.

(3) A majority of the members of a special committee shall be a quorum unless the House has otherwise ordered.

Quorum.

Under the terms of the present standing order, notice is required of a motion to make a substitution in the membership of a special committee. This proviso has been observed on one occasion only in recent years. It is proposed, therefore, that the requirement of notice for substitutions be repealed by deleting therefrom the words "or substituted".

It is also proposed that section 2 of the foregoing order be deleted on the ground that its provisions are antiquated. In consequence of the deletion of section 2, the former section 3 has been renumbered.

STANDING ORDER 69

The present standing order 69 reads as follows:

Every bill is introduced upon motion for leave, specifying the title of the bill; or upon motion to appoint a committee to prepare and bring it in.

Introduction.

The purpose of the new clause (2) in this order is to spell out the existing practice.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 77

(To be temporarily renumbered 76 (2))

Proceed-
ings
reported.

Third
reading.

76. (2) All amendments made in committee are reported by the Chairman to the House and the same shall be received and the motion for concurrence therein shall be disposed of forthwith before the bill is ordered for a third reading at the next sitting of the House. When a bill is reported without amendment, it is forthwith ordered to be read a third time at such time as may be appointed by the House.

STANDING ORDER 77

The present standing order 77 reads as follows:

All amendments made in committee are reported by the Chairman to the House, which shall receive the same forthwith. After report the bill is open to debate and amendment, before it is ordered for a third reading. But when a bill is reported without amendment, it is forthwith ordered to be read a third time at such time as may be appointed by the House.

Proceedings
reported.

Third
reading.

Standing order 77 contemplated a procedure whereby a bill reported with amendment from a committee of the whole could be debated and further amended before being ordered for a third reading. Formerly, a motion was made that the bill be now taken into consideration but this procedure has not been employed for many years. Since, under modern practice, amendments to a bill are made only in standing or special committees or in committees of the whole House, it is recommended that standing order 77 be amended to conform with the now well-established practice.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 92

Time
limited
for
receiving
petitions.

Petitions for private bills shall only be received by the House if filed within the first six weeks of the session, and every private bill originating in the Commons shall be presented to the House within two weeks after the petition therefor has been favourably reported upon by the Examiner of Petitions or by the Committee on Standing Orders.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 93 (8)

Charges
apply to
Senate
bills.

(8) The additional charges provided for in this standing order shall also apply to private bills originating in the Senate; provided, however, that if a petition for any such bill has been filed with this House within the first six weeks of the session, the additional charges made under paragraphs (b) or (c) of subsection (3) shall not be levied thereon.

STANDING ORDERS 92 AND 93 (8)

The present standing orders 92 and 93 (8) read as follows:

92. Petitions for private bills shall only be received by the House if presented within the first six weeks of the session, and every private bill originating in the Commons shall be presented to the House within two weeks after the petition therefor has been favourably reported upon by the Examiner of Petitions or by the Committee on Standing Orders, and no motion for the suspension of this standing order shall be entertained unless a report has been first made by the Committee on Standing Orders recommending such suspension and giving their reason therefor.

93. (8) The additional charges provided for in this standing order shall also apply to private bills originating in the Senate; provided, however, that if a petition for any such bill has been presented in this House, within the first six weeks of the session, the additional charges made under paragraphs (b) or (c) of subsection (3) shall not be levied thereon.

Under the terms of the present standing orders, petitions for private bills could not be presented to the House when it was in recess during the sixth calendar week of any session and, to overcome that difficulty, special orders of the House have been made to extend the period for the presentation of such petitions.

These amendments propose the deletion of the word "presented" where it appears therein and the substitution thereof of the word "filed". Under these standing orders, as amended, any petition filed with the Clerk of the House within the first six weeks of a session could be received by the House without penalty being incurred.

In order to remove repetitious provisions, the underlined proviso in the present standing order 92 has been deleted but its substance has been included in standing order 101, as amended.

Time limited for receiving petitions.

Motion for suspension.

Charges apply to Senate bills.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 101

Suspension
of standing
orders.

No motion for the suspension or modification of any provision of Part II of the Standing Orders applying to private bills or to petitions for private bills shall be entertained by the House until after reference is made to the Committee on Standing Orders, or to one of the committees charged with the consideration of private bills, and a report made thereon by one of such committees and, in its report, the said committee shall state the grounds for recommending such suspension or modification.

NEW STANDING ORDER 102 (2)

Senate
private
bills
first
reading.

(2) When Mr. Speaker informs the House that any private bill has been brought from the Senate, the said bill shall be deemed to have been read a first time and ordered for a second reading at the next sitting of the House and recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings* as having been so read and ordered.

STANDING ORDER 109

To be deleted

STANDING ORDER 101

The present standing order 101 reads as follows:

Suspension
of rules.

No motion for the suspension of the standing orders or any rule respecting a petition for a private bill will be entertained, unless the same has been reported upon by the Committee on Standing Orders, and the committee in its report shall state the grounds for recommending such suspension.

This amendment proposes the consolidation of repetitious provisions in the present standing orders 101 and 116 and of the latter part of standing order 92.

STANDING ORDER 102

The present standing order 102 reads as follows:

Introduc-
tion of
private
bills.

All private bills are introduced on petition, and after such petition has been favourably reported upon by the Examiner of Petitions or by the Committee on Standing Orders, such bills shall be laid upon the Table of the House by the Clerk, and shall be deemed to have been read a first time, and to have been ordered for a second reading when so laid upon the Table, and recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings* as having been so read.

Under the terms of the present standing order 102, a pro forma first reading is given to private bills introduced in this House. This proposal will provide a similar procedure for private bills received from the Senate.

In consequence of the adoption of the new clause, the present section will be renumbered (1).

STANDING ORDER 109

The present standing order 109 reads as follows:

Where
placed
on the
order
paper.

Private bills reported to the House by any committee, shall be placed upon the orders of the day following the reception of the report, for consideration in committee of the whole, in their proper order, next after bills referred to a committee of the whole House.

Since this standing order relates to precedence on the order paper, its substance has been included in the new standing order 19 (1) (c).

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 110

(To be temporarily renumbered 56B)

Private bills referred together.

(1) All private bills reported to the House by standing committees may, on one motion, be referred together to a committee of the whole House and such committee may consider and report upon one or more such bills at the same sitting.

Bills retain precedence.

(2) Any bill not considered by the committee before the expiry of the time provided for the consideration of such bills shall retain its precedence and be placed on the order paper as having been ordered for consideration in a committee of the whole at the next sitting of the House.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 112

Bill to be signed.

The Chairman of the committee shall sign with his name at length a printed copy of the bill, and shall also sign with the initials of his name, the preamble and the various sections of the bill and also any amendments which may be made or clauses added in committee; and another copy of the bill with the amendments, if any, written thereon shall be prepared by the clerk of the committee, who shall sign the bill with his name at length and shall also sign with the initials of his name the preamble and the various sections adopted by the committee, and any amendments which may have been made thereto, and shall file the same with the Clerk of the House or attach it to the report of the committee.

STANDING ORDER 110

The present standing order 110 reads as follows:

(1) All private bills reported to the House by any committee may, on one motion, be referred together to a committee of the whole House and such committee may consider and report one or more such bills at the same sitting.

Bills
referred
together.

(2) In the event of the expiry of the hour for private bills, the chairman will, on rising, report to the House such bills as have been disposed of by the committee, and the bill under discussion at the expiry of the hour shall retain its place on the order paper for the next sitting.

The amendment to section 1 of the present standing order is intended to remove any doubt in respect of private bills reported by more than one standing committee.

Under the terms of standing order 19 (2), as amended, it is proposed that after the consideration of any bill in the name of a private member has been interrupted or adjourned, the said bill shall be placed at the foot of the heading "private bills".

STANDING ORDER 112

The present standing order 112 reads as follows:

The Chairman of the committee shall sign with his name at length a printed copy of the bill, and shall also sign with the initials of his name, the preamble and the various sections of the bill as they are agreed to, and also any amendments which may be made or clauses added in committee; and another copy of the bill with the amendments (if any) written thereon shall be prepared by the clerk of the committee, who shall sign the bill with his name at length and shall also sign with the initials of his name the preamble and the various sections adopted by the committee, and any amendments which may have been made thereto, and shall file the same with the Clerk of the House or attach it to the report of the committee.

Bill to
be signed.

It is recommended that the words "as they are agreed to" be deleted from the present order, but no change in practice is being proposed.

To be deleted.

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 117

Record of private bills.

A record shall be kept in the private bills office of the name, description, and place of residence of the parties applying for a private bill or of their agent, the amount of fees paid, and all the proceedings thereon, from the time of the deposit of the bill with the Clerk of the House to the passing of the bill; such record to specify briefly each proceeding in the House or in any committee to which the bill or the petition may be referred, and the day on which the committee is appointed to sit; such record shall be open to public inspection during office hours.

STANDING ORDER 116

The present standing order 116 reads as follows:

Except in cases of urgent and pressing necessity, no motion for the suspension or modification of any standing order applying to private bills or petitions for private bills shall be entertained by the House until after reference is made to the Committee on Standing Orders, or to one of the committees charged with the consideration of private bills, and a report made thereon by one of such committees.

Suspension
of standing
orders.

The substance of this standing order has been included in standing order 101, as amended.

STANDING ORDER 117

The present standing order 117 reads as follows:

A book to be called the "Private Bill Register" shall be kept in the private bills office in which book shall be entered the name, description and place of residence of the parties applying for the bill or their agent, the amount of fees paid, and all the proceedings thereon, from the time of the deposit of the bill with the Clerk of the House to the passing of the bill; such entries to specify briefly each proceeding in the House or in any committee to which the bill or the petition may be referred, and the day on which the committee is appointed to sit; such book to be open to public inspection during office hours.

Register
of private
bills.

In this amendment it is proposed that provision be made for the use of a modern and practical cardex system of record keeping in the private bills office (Committees Branch).

AMENDED STANDING ORDERS 122, 125, 127, 129, 130

Catalogue
to be kept.

122. A proper catalogue of the books belonging to the library shall be kept by the Parliamentary Librarian, in whom the custody and responsibility thereof shall be vested, and who shall be required to report to the House through Mr. Speaker, at the opening of each session, the actual state of the library.

Access
to library
during
recess.

125. During the recess of Parliament the library and reading room shall be open every day in each week, Sundays and holidays excepted, from the hour of ten in the morning till four in the afternoon; and access to the library shall be permitted to persons introduced by a Member of either House, or admitted at the discretion of the Clerk or the Parliamentary Librarian, subject to such regulations as may be deemed necessary for the security and preservation of the collection; but no one shall be allowed to take any book out of the library, except Members of either House, and such others as may be authorized by the Speaker of either House.

Other
persons
borrowing
books.

127. No other persons who may be privileged by card from the Speaker of either House to borrow books from the library, shall be allowed to have in their possession more than two works at any one time, or to retain the same longer than three weeks; and all such persons shall return the books so taken when required by the Parliamentary Librarian.

Report
of books
absent.

129. At the first meeting of the Joint Library Committee at every session of Parliament, the Parliamentary Librarian shall report a list of the books absent at the commencement of the session, specifying the names of any persons who have retained the same in contravention of either of the foregoing rules.

Subscrip-
tions for
newspapers.

130. The Parliamentary Librarian is authorized to subscribe for the newspapers published in the Dominion, and for such other papers, British and foreign, as may, from time to time, be directed by Mr. Speaker.

STANDING ORDERS 122, 125, 127, 129 and 130

The present standing orders 122, 125, 127, 129 and 130 read as follows:

122. A proper catalogue of the books belonging to the library shall be kept by the Librarians, in whom the custody and responsibility thereof shall be vested, and who shall be required to report to the House through Mr. Speaker, at the opening of each session, the actual state of the library.

Catalogue to be kept.

125. During the recess of parliament the library and reading room shall be open every day in each week, Sundays and holidays excepted, from the hour of ten in the morning till four in the afternoon; and access to the library shall be permitted to persons introduced by a member of either House, or admitted at the discretion of the Clerk or Librarians, subject to such regulations as may be deemed necessary for the security and preservation of the collection; but no one shall be allowed to take any book out of the library, except members of either House, and such others as may be authorized by the Speaker of either House.

Access to library during recess.

127. No other persons who may be privileged by card from the Speaker of either House to borrow books from the library, shall be allowed to have in their possession more than two works at any one time, or to retain the same longer than three weeks; and all such persons shall return the books so taken when required by the Librarians.

Other persons borrowing books.

129. At the first meeting of the Joint Library Committee at every session of parliament, the Librarians shall report a list of the books absent at the commencement of the session, specifying the names of any persons who have retained the same in contravention of either of the foregoing rules.

Report of books absent.

130. The Clerk of the House is authorized to subscribe for the newspapers published in the Dominion, and for such other papers, British and foreign, as may, from time to time, be directed by Mr. Speaker.

Subscriptions for newspapers.

These amendments propose the deletion of the word "Librarians" from the present standing orders 122, 125, 127 and 129 and the substitution therefor of the words "Parliamentary Librarian". In standing order 130, it is proposed that the words, "Clerk of the House" be deleted and that the words "Parliamentary Librarian" be substituted therefor.

These amendments will implement the recommendation of the Joint Committee of both Houses on the Library of Parliament which was concurred in by the House of Commons on June 23, 1954, and are consequential to the enactment of Bill No. 192 (Letter B of the Senate) intituled: "An Act to amend the Library of Parliament Act".

OTHER PROPOSALS RELATING TO PROCEDURES

1. That reports from standing and special committees be not read by the Clerk Assistant unless Members when presenting the same state they intend to move for concurrence therein the same day.

2. That motions for concurrence in reports of any standing or special committee, for the suspension of any standing order, or such other motions made upon routine proceedings, as may be required for the observances of the proprieties of the House, the maintenance of its authority, the appointment or conduct of its officers, the management of its business, the arrangements of its proceedings, the correctness of its records, the fixing of its sitting days or the times of its meeting or adjournment shall be listed, when notice is required, called and disposed of under "Motions".

3. That the procedure relating to His Excellency's recommendations to money resolutions be amended. Notice will be given under "government notices of motions" in the following manner:

"The Minister of Finance—On.....next—
In Committee of the Whole—The following proposed resolution, which has been recommended to the House by His Excellency:"

When the said notice of motion is called, Mr. Speaker will put the question thereon as follows:

"Mr....., seconded by Mr. moves,—
That the House do go into committee of the whole at its next sitting to consider the following proposed resolution which has been recommended to the House by His Excellency:"

4. That the Clerk of the House be authorized to institute a descriptive and consecutive numbering system for questions, motions for returns and addresses.

CONCLUSION

If the proposed changes are concurred in by the House, it will be necessary to renumber, regroup in some cases, rewrite chapter headings, where desirable, and reprint the standing orders.

Your Committee recommends that the proposals contained in this report be put into effect at the next session of Parliament.

Respectfully submitted,

L. RENÉ BEAUDOIN,
Chairman.

