

SPEAKER'S RULING

DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS

Honourable senators, I am prepared to rule on the point of order raised by the Honourable Senator Moore on Thursday, May 9. His point of order related to the availability of the twenty-fifth report presented that day by the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, the final of four reports presented by the committee that day. The three other reports presented earlier were distributed to all senators in the chamber while they were being read out in full by a clerk at the table. The twenty-fifth report, however, was initially distributed only on request. The object of Senator Moore's point of order had to do with the difference in the way these reports were made available to the senators.

In a ruling on November 6, 2012, it was noted "that committee reports that are not for consideration later during the same sitting are not handed out as a matter of course, but can be requested from the pages." The events of May 9 were generally in keeping with current practice. The table was guided by indications given about anticipated proceedings following the presentation of each report. In the end, however, events unfolded differently. This created the confusion. Once it became clear that senators wanted to have copies of the final report distributed, this was done.

The events of May 9 were in line with current practices. If senators do wish to change current practice, they certainly can be adapted. The issue could be taken up by the Rules Committee or by consultation through the usual channels. I wish to thank the Honourable Senator Moore for raising the point of order, because there was a bit of confusion on that day.