

**SPEAKER'S RULING**  
**SENATORS' STATEMENTS**  
**September 29, 2009**

Honourable senators,

On September 15, Senator Tardif raised a point of order respecting a senator's statement earlier in the sitting. The statement referred to a variety of government bills, including some that have already passed and at least one that is currently in the Senate. Senator Tardif suggested that the statement had not respected the criteria of rule 22(4). A number of honourable senators participated in debate. Senator Stratton offered a suggestion that the issue of the appropriate topics for statements might be addressed through the caucuses, to ensure that there is a clear and general understanding of the subjects that can be raised and those that should be avoided.

The Speaker has addressed the issue of the appropriate use of Senators' Statements in a number of recent rulings, at least four in the past two years. Honourable senators have been urged to use statements for the intent and purpose for which they were designed and to make them in a manner that respects the dignity of this honourable house. Senator Stratton's suggestion is a good one, and I hope that it will be acted upon. If it does not resolve this persistent problem, the Speaker will be obliged to intervene, using the power granted under rule 18(1) to maintain order, to cut off the statement and to recognize another honourable senator.