

APRIL 27, 2006

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Electronic Devices

I will be happy to try to be of service to the chamber. I should like to consult with many of the honourable senators. In the meantime, I would urge upon the house that we try to respect the letter of rule 19 (4):

No person, nor any Senator, shall bring any electronic device which produces any sound, whether for personal communication or other use into the Senate Chamber, whether on the floor, inside the Bar, outside the Bar or in the galleries ...

Honourable senators, until such time that the Rules Committee and the chamber itself changes that rule, that is the rule of the Senate.

I just might add a footnote: Having read the Hansard from the other day, Senator Lapointe is quite right. There is one instrument that transmits via satellite, and it overrides everything, including the computer in your own office. Often you will hear, if you are using that system, the static coming on your computer in your own office. It is a reality. It is a problem, and we do have a rule. I think even if one had that type of machine and turned it off, it is still problematic.

There is the rule, honourable senators. Let us try to respect that rule as much as we can.

To be of service to the house, I welcome the opportunity to have a little time so I can consult with as many honourable senators as I can. If anyone would like to send me material so that we might come up with a proposal that we could refer to the Rules Committee, I welcome that.

The Speaker reserved his final decision.
