

## Correspondence

### **From Mrs Ida Malk, Johannesburg:**

In the USA, a 'Parliamentarian' is a professionally recognized person whose function is to assist organisations. Such organisations benefit from his or her expert knowledge of parliamentary law and deliberative procedure. The emergence of the Parliamentarian is a comparatively new element of the whole democratic system.

Parliamentary Law is defined as the code of rules governing procedure in deliberative assemblies. First systematized in the early English Parliament, from which it takes its name, it has developed through centuries of usage into an established code commonly observed wherever gatherings formally assemble for purposes of deliberation.<sup>1</sup>

In South Africa, increasing public interest in the skills pertaining to meeting procedures at all levels has brought about recognition of the worth of the services of the Parliamentarian.

In the USA where the legislature is Congress, Parliamentarian is a distinctive qualification and would never be confused with Congressman. In South Africa, however, the spontaneous correlation between Parliamentarian and Member of Parliament is so strong that a new term synonymous with the American Parliamentarian is therefore a genuine need. The alternative term would have the virtue of preventing any confusion, of providing against misuse of Parliamentarian, and would be preparation in South Africa for the expanding requirement for the expertise of this new specialist. It is pertinent to remark that Parliamentarian Institutes in the USA do not compete one against another. Encouragement is given to all proper efforts to maintain and promote democratic procedures.

Some years ago, Robert English, founder of the American Institute of Parliamentarians, (of which I am a member), suggested Parltor as a shortened form for Parliamentarian. In order to evoke

comment, I have focussed attention on this proposal as a possible solution for South African use. Dr. Darwin Patnode, President of AIP for the year 1974–1975, has informed me that no official standpoint has been taken on Parlitor, and that full freedom should be exercised to accept, improve or reject this term.

Parlitor is evoking interest, approval and disapproval. Other opinions thus far, include Parliator (Mrs. J. Gerber), and Parleter which may be suitable for both English and Afrikaans usage (1974–1975 S.A. Toastmistress Translations Committee).

I would like to see South African professional Parletors taking their place in improving deliberative processes, thereby strengthening one of the essential elements of our democracy at work.

### **Our Russian and Japanese correspondence**

We have been receiving requests from Russia and Japan for copies of *English Usage in Southern Africa*. In exchange, we have received some interesting items (listed below) for which we express sincere thanks.

*The Parks at Pushkin*

*Moscow*

*North Russian Architecture*

*Moscow Sights and Moscovites*

*Early Russia- the USSR: Historical Sketches*

*Verbal Collations in Modern English*

I.V. Arnold: *The English Word*

*Studia Anglia Posnaniensa*, Vol 6, nos 1 and 2

Yonezo Hamamrura, *et al: Kabuki*, Kenkyusha, Tokyo, 1966.

A.D.A.

### **Footnote**

<sup>1</sup> Permission to reprint granted by *The Encyclopedia Americana*.