

A few pleasant words from the Scottish Parliament:

Subordinate Legislation Committee

23 April 2002, col. 874.

The Convener (Margo Macdonald): The committee asked the Executive to justify the vires of the degree of sub-delegation to Scottish Water in regulation 8(b). The Executive has given us a well-researched and thoughtful response. It must have been referring to Bennion's "Statutory Interpretation", which, I am told, is something that we must all read.

Murdo Fraser: Convener, I think that you should read it and précis it for the rest of us.

The Convener: Yes, okay.

Colin Campbell: On an A4 sheet.

The Convener: Seemingly, Bennion's "Statutory Interpretation" is the answer to everything. I really must ask for it for Christmas.

25 February 2003, col. 1245.

The Convener (Margo Macdonald): We said that. Convenience in drafting should not be as important as the legal effect.

Ian Jenkins: And we all know that Bennion, in "Statutory Interpretation", makes it clear that it is a drafting error that can have serious consequences.

Colin Campbell (West of Scotland) (SNP): You took the words right out of my mouth.

The Convener: That is what Bennion said the last time I talked to him.

Murdo Fraser: Did you enjoy the end of chapter 3? I thought that it was a good cliffhanger.

The Convener: We like happy endings. Old Bennion can be relied upon.