

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The hon. member knows that when he said I misquoted him, he did.

Mr. Fulton: But not at the time when he was really developing the technical part of his case.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Rea): If the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has anything to say I wish he would direct it to the Chair.

Mr. Fulton: As the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre pointed out, there were two governor general's warrants; one in connection with the Department of Veterans Affairs and one in connection with this department. He said, as I recall his words, that he could raise the matter when the veterans affairs estimates were before the house but he did not do so.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): For the reason I have already given.

Mr. Fulton: And he could have raised the parliamentary issue on the night of January 30, but he did not do so. He did not do so, I submit, because it had not occurred to him then. He raises it now, I submit, because of a certain event to which he himself has eluded this afternoon—an event of which he may have some knowledge but I have not—with which he says he is about to be faced, and he thinks this will be a good opportunity to try to obscure the issue. Let us not forget that if an issue is serious, then it should be raised at the first opportunity that presents itself. Otherwise, I think the house is entitled to judge as to the validity or otherwise of the issue on the basis that it is raised late in the day, merely in an attempt to embarrass and to obscure what are the real facts.

In attempting to make this argument the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre tries to say that he did not know on the night of January 30 whether or not we would be including in the supplementary estimates an amount to cover this governor general's warrant. He says it was not until this afternoon, when we came to the supplementary estimates, that he knew for certain that we would not, as he puts it, retreat from our course and adopt what he regards as a proper course and bring in supplementary estimates including that amount. Let me refer the hon. gentleman to what I said in reply to his questions on the night of January 30, which reply made it perfectly clear that we did not intend to introduce a supplementary estimate covering this warrant, and that we felt that we were perfectly

entitled not to do so. As reported at page 4079 of *Hansard*, the hon. gentleman asked me this question:

I should like to know whether the \$2,428,000 voted by order in council is included in that \$10,483,000 set out in the estimates or whether it is in addition to the moneys that parliament is asked to vote?

I replied as follows:

The answer is no, the \$2,428,000 is not included in the total to which the hon. gentleman has referred.

Then I went on to say this:

It is included in the total of \$54,055,059, which I gave earlier this afternoon as the total which would be covered by the amount in the main and supplementary estimates. In fact, I think I described it as the total estimated expenditure for 1957-58.

Then I went on to say again, as reported on that same page in the second column:

I think I may have been guilty inadvertently of misleading the hon. gentleman earlier. The total of \$54 million which I gave does not include the final supplementaries, which I believe total \$643,150.

Therefore it was within the hon. gentleman's knowledge then that all the supplementary estimates, including the final supplementaries, had been tabled and that the last final supplementaries for this department totalled \$463,150,000. All he had to do—and knowing the care with which he peruses documents I cannot believe that he had not done this—was to read all the supplementaries including the final supplementaries which had then been tabled, and he would have found that there was no item covering this governor general's warrant.

I submit that it was within his knowledge at that time, on the night of January 30, that there was not in the estimates, the supplementaries or the final supplementaries, anywhere an item including this governor general's warrant. I therefore submit to you, Mr. Chairman, to the committee and to the country that that fact completely refutes the argument of the hon. gentleman to the effect that he had to wait until this afternoon in order to be certain that we would not possibly be introducing some sort of supplementary estimate in order to include this governor general's warrant.

It is therefore clear that there were two occasions when the matter could have been raised, namely on the estimates of the Department of Veterans Affairs and on the night of January 30. The question of the governor general's warrant was raised on the night of January 30, but this point was not raised at all. The reason it was not raised at all, in my submission, was that it was recognized then that it was not an issue and that the government had, in fact, done all that any government should be expected to do,