

National Defence Act Amendment

house the motion moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent. Before proceeding with my ruling I should also bring to the attention of hon. members a decision which is in point. I refer to a ruling by Mr. Speaker on Monday, May 14, 1956, as follows:

May I point out to the hon. member for Kamloops that I cannot accept his motion because the order that is now before the house is a government order, and the other order that the hon. member now considers we should proceed with is order No. 12, which is another government order, and government orders may be moved only by the leader of the house. I would refer hon. members to standing order 18(2).

That is the standing order to which I have just referred.

There is also citation 136, which reads: "All motions referring to the business of the house should be introduced by the leader of the house."

Therefore the Speaker considered that the motion could not be moved.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, we are faced with a very difficult question here.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Lambert: I realize that this is not supposed to be a debatable motion, but I think Your Honour might take under advisement the fact that standing order 15-A did not apply in 1956. The government has availed itself of the provisions of standing order 15-A by appointing a day certain for the termination of this debate and therefore has pre-empted any question of the continuation of the debate at this time. In effect the government could have indicated not next Thursday but the Tuesday following or any day subsequent to next Thursday for the termination of the debate or how long it should continue. I am sure Your Honour realizes that when citing precedents they must be on all fours with the question under consideration. Unfortunately for the judgment that Your Honour has rendered, I would submit that 1956 is not today and that standing order 15-A was not then in force.

Mr. Speaker: The point raised by the hon. member for Edmonton West is interesting, but even without the precedent to which I have just referred, which to my mind is

[Mr. Speaker.]

certainly relevant, there is standing order 18(2) which specifies that government business is in the hands of the government house leader. We cannot suspend the provisions of that standing order without the consent of the house. Therefore, orders of the day having been called—

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I should like to raise a point of order. It so happened that on April 3 it was moved that the house go into committee to consider Bill No. C-243 and the opinion of the house was called for. The yeas and nays were called and there was a recorded vote. Why, then, cannot that be done on this occasion and on any occasion when an order of the house is called? May I call for the yeas and nays on the movement of the house into committee on this bill.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On that point, Mr. Speaker, is there not a difference between the situation of April 3 and today? On April 3 we had the first motion that the house resolve itself into committee of the whole on this bill.

Mr. Starr: We have to do that every day.

Mr. Knowles: No, we are not resolving ourselves into committee. We are again going into committee of the whole, the resolving already having been determined.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that there should not be further discussion. I bring to the attention of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre that standing order 53 is in point. I think the argument raised by the hon. member of Winnipeg South Centre has been adequately answered by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. Orders of the day have been called and I have no alternative but to leave the chair.

The house resumed, from Monday, April 17, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-243, to amend the National Defence Act and other acts in consequence thereof—Mr. Hellyer—Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Chairman: Order. When the committee rose last evening clause 2 was under consideration.

On clause 2—*Canadian forces, Canadian armed forces.*

Mr. Nugent: Mr. Chairman, when this debate was adjourned last night I had just finished explaining why it was necessary for