

Business of Supply

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am sure discussion on clauses 2 to 6 will be negligible, in fact nil, if first of all we have the discussion on the items in the schedule. May I interrupt myself and remind the minister that we are under a time limit of six o'clock on Wednesday, and if we spend our time on the detailed estimates in the schedule and then revert to the clauses we will not be able to debate them anyway. What we want to get at are the items under housing, immigration, and so on. The sensible thing would be to let all the clauses stand and call the schedule, and call as the first item in the schedule the C.M.H.C. item.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, the position that many hon. members of the committee will take on these clauses may well depend on, for example, the Minister of Transport and other ministers making a substantial and reasonable defence of some of the items in the schedule. For this reason I had thought we could go to the schedule. If these matters are properly covered then, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has suggested, when the time comes to deal with the substantive clauses of the bill it would be a routine matter provided we are satisfied on the other matters.

• (5:10 p.m.)

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): That certainly was not the understanding I had. The understanding was that we would proceed right through the bill to the schedule and then agree to change the order in the schedule.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am not arguing with the minister. I am sorry if there was any misunderstanding. I was engaged in the discussions and my thought was we would move through all the other stages as quickly as possible to get to the schedule but I did not think that meant we would pass all the various clauses without debate. Frankly, what does it matter? Once we get into the schedule we will be on it until six o'clock on Wednesday and then the clauses will be called without debate.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): That seems to be the best argument for calling the clauses now.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 2 carry?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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Some hon. Members: No.

The Deputy Chairman: Clause 3.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Chairman, by passing clause 2 we in effect pass the schedule because that is the way clause 2 reads. How can we discuss the schedule, which may have many changes to the items depending upon the sense of the house, if we have already passed clause 2? That does not make sense to me.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Chairman, I submit that you have called clause 2, which is the proper thing for you to do. Clause 2 refers to the schedule. This would now permit us to discuss the items in the schedule, and that is where the housing items are.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 2 carry?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Chairman, I understand it is the mood of the committee that we turn first to housing and deal with the four \$1 items, this massive injection of new money into the housing problems that confront Canada. This is set forth at page 16 of the measures we are considering. It may be that the Minister of Transport would wish to make an opening statement on this subject. If so, I would defer to him because he obviously said very little before the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates the other day. Perhaps since then he has had an opportunity to do his homework and is now in a position to report to the house. If the minister wishes to rise now I will gladly bow to him; if not I propose to make a statement and ask questions to which I hope we will receive the answers which we did not receive during the hearings of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates the other day.

First of all, an important occasion always demands a preamble so I shall turn to some of the housing pledges that were made by hon. gentlemen opposite as recently as last April, May and June. First, let us take the words of one of the outstanding members opposite in a speech made in Vancouver on May 11 as reported by the Canadian Press. This gentleman said that the national housing situation calls for increased help to C.M.H.C. an aid to low-cost housing projects. What could be more just than increased emphasis on low-cost housing projects because everybody in this chamber is familiar with the fact