

*Business of the House***VETERANS AFFAIRS**CANADIAN LEGION BIENNIAL CONVENTION—
INQUIRY AS TO ATTENDANCE OF MINISTER AND
MEMBERS OF HOUSE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is the minister attending the biennial convention of the Canadian Legion in Vancouver, which I believe is to be held this month? Are any arrangements being made, as have been made at previous conventions, for members of the House of Commons to attend the convention?

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the minister does propose to attend the convention, as in the past. I am not familiar with any arrangements that have been made previously to transport hon. members to the locality where the convention is taking place. Personally, the minister is travelling by Trans-Canada Air Lines.

SHIPPINGINQUIRY AS TO SUBSIDIZATION OF MERCHANT
FLEET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the resolution passed yesterday at the annual meeting of the naval officers association of Canada with respect to subsidizing the merchant fleet, a copy of which I understand will be presented to the minister, is the minister prepared to reconsider this matter and make a statement on it?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to see the terms of the resolution before I make any statement.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSEMR. SPEAKER—STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO
RULING ON MOTION OF HON. MEMBER FOR
NANAIMO

Mr. Speaker: Government orders. Before the deputy clerk reads the order of the day, it is not because I want to anticipate the point of order which the hon. member for Eglinton indicated that he wanted to raise a moment ago that I want to state that it may be said that because the chairman's report was not placed before the house yesterday, the order "House again in committee of the whole" should not appear on the order paper; but, of course, what has happened is absolutely unprecedented. See standing order 7. No such

interruption has ever taken place. It is in the same category as the interruption which takes place when the Black Rod comes to tell us that a message is coming to us from the Senate.

Therefore I had to deal with the problem last evening before I left, and the matter which was before the house was, as provided in the rules, an appeal by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre of a ruling made by the chairman in committee, and that report must be submitted to the house and the committee must resume the consideration of its business at once. Therefore I gave instructions to the Clerk to put the order on the order paper and it is in relation to that instruction, for which I take responsibility, that I suggest the action I outlined a moment ago to the house. It is absolutely unprovided for; it is unprecedented; and the matter I outlined a moment ago is one which I thought I had the right to submit to the house at the time I did.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre indicated doubts existed as to that. As a matter of fact, he said: "I challenge your right to do it at the moment", but indicated it could be done later. Therefore at this moment I am—

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Knowles: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Speaker: I am putting words in the hon. gentleman's mouth?

Mr. Knowles: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: If I am, I withdraw them and I apologize. Now, in the execution of that—

Mr. Knowles: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. gentleman says he rises on a point of order. The function of a point of order is to bring to the attention of the Speaker a matter which he did not himself perceive. I have perceived the matter. I have explained why it is happening the way it is. What more can hon. members ask than that the matter be left to them to decide? That is exactly what I propose to do.

Mr. Knowles: That is rule by majority, not rule by the rule book. That is taking the will of the majority rather than following the rules in the book.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre says that that is rule by the majority.

Mr. Knowles: And not following the rules laid down.

Mr. Speaker: All questions must be decided by a majority.