

Bank of Canada Report

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): On other occasions, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Minister of Finance has just made a statement which is incorrect, because the governor of the Bank of Canada on that occasion in 1956 began his evidence by saying that it was a pleasure for him to be back with them again, meaning the members of the committee.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, any honest person who reads the evidence of that occasion will realize that what the governor was referring to was an appearance, not in connection with the reference of the annual report to that committee, but in respect of an entirely different matter. He has appeared before committees before, but only on one occasion following a reference of the governor's report to that committee.

The position taken here is perfectly clear. Hon. members of the opposition are trying to disclaim any responsibility with respect to the contents of the report—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): They do not want to have any responsibility for the contents of that report of the governor, but want that responsibility to be accepted by—

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if he accepts responsibility for—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No, sit down. They are asking the government to take the responsibility for having this report referred to the committee, and the minute that is done they—

Mr. Pearson: Does the government not accept any responsibility in regard—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, you know perfectly well that they would be very quick to claim that the responsibility for the statements made in the annual report of the governor of the Bank of Canada was that of the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If there is a matter of contradiction it should be referred to at the end of the hon. minister's statement.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The minister has referred to—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is an attempt to steal more of my time.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

An hon. Member: It is ten o'clock.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is an attempt to steal my time, and surely that is against the rules of this house.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the Minister of Finance has misrepresented the position of the opposition regarding this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is a matter of personal explanation which can more appropriately be made when the minister has completed his statement.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, I suggest that what has taken place here is an attempt to create the impression in the mind of the public that the government is responsible for the opinions expressed by the governor of the Bank of Canada in this report, but I want to state again—

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):—that the government does not take the responsibility for these expressions of opinion by the governor of the Bank of Canada as contained in the annual report.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Nowlan: Order; the Speaker is on his feet. Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There will be neither speech or privilege, as it is ten o'clock.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker am I to have my time stolen from me this way?

Mr. Pickersgill: It is ten o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): What a shameful performance.

Mr. Speaker: It being ten o'clock it is my duty, pursuant to section 3 (f) of standing order 56 as provisionally amended, to interrupt these proceedings and forthwith put the question on the motion now before the house.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. McGee in the chair.

The estimates of the following departments were first taken up and entered for consideration.