

Income Tax Act

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Chairman: Does the Parliamentary Secretary wish to address the House?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance is rising on a point of order?

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. May I first congratulate the Opposition. I know members of the insurance industry who have been trying to get this motion are not going to thank them for this.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fisher: It is clear that the braying hounds on the other side—

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I would ask the Parliamentary Secretary to come to his point of order.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Does the Parliamentary Secretary have a point of order that he wishes to make?

Mr. Fisher: I apologize for not hearing you earlier, Mr. Chairman. I could not hear you over the uproar from our colleagues. They are the ones always urging civility. I would ask them to follow their own preaching now.

All of us in the House clearly saw that when the question was put there were approximately ten members of the Progressive Conservative Party in the House. There are now in excess of that number, in considerable excess.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fisher: All of them, as you can tell, Mr. Chairman, are gleefully happy about defeating the insurance industry on this relieving measure. However, I would put to you—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fisher: I am sorry, I cannot hear you, Mr. Chairman. You seem to be giving me a signal. These people seem to be causing some sort of an uproar. I would put to you that the people who entered the House following the question being put should not be allowed to vote on this issue.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman—

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

The Deputy Chairman: The Hon. Member for Beauharnois-Salaberry on the same point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Laniel: Mr. Chairman, I may refer you to S.O. 59(1), which says, and I quote:

The Standing Orders of the House shall be observed in Committees of the Whole so far as may be applicable, except the Standing Orders as to the seconding of motions, limiting the number of times of speaking and the length of speeches.

Mr. Chairman, this Standing Order provides that except for those indicated, all Standing Orders of the House shall be observed in Committee of the Whole, and I may refer you to S.O. 15(2), on page 10, which says, and I quote:

When the Speaker is putting a question, no Member shall enter, walk out of or across the House, or make any noise or disturbance.

Mr. Chairman, surely you must have noticed that at least thirty or forty Members on the other side entered the House while we were counting votes on this side. Mr. Chairman, I think you must reject the decision which seem to have been taken and which is merely a ploy being used by the Opposition to satisfy its petty political aspirations.

[*English*]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, I clearly heard the Chair state, and I believe I can recall the words verbatim: "I declare Clause 6 lost."

Some Hon. Members: That is right.

Mr. Nielsen: That, Sir, is a decision of the Chair. What we have heard in the last two interventions is a direct reflection upon a ruling of the Chair.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Nielsen: Such is not our practice in the House of Commons. I would suggest, with respect, that you should hear no further submissions on a point of order which reflects on a decision of the Chair.

In the meantime, I suggest to the Chair that we call it one o'clock so that the Chair might consider the consequences of what has just happened. I intend to make a submission to you, Sir, or should the Committee of the Whole prefer to report in an interim way to the Chair what has occurred here, I intend to make a submission to you after the luncheon break, that what has happened here has effectively terminated the term of this Government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Out!

Mr. Nielsen: The Government has, Sir, been defeated on a money measure. It has been defeated on a taxation measure. I intend to make a submission preferably to the Chair, but if we are still in this mode, it shall be done in this mode, that there are precedents which require under our traditional practices and under the Constitution that the only alternative now available to this Government is to pay a visit to the Governor General.