

A Point of Order being raised by Mr. Knowles to the effect that, as the sections of the said Bill remaining to be considered are sections which impose taxation, they should be considered in Committee of Ways and Means before being considered in Committee of the Whole.

RULING OF MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: The Point of Order which the Honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre has raised is a very interesting and important one. He suggests that the Committee of the Whole should not proceed further to consider Bill No. 13 until the House has gone into Committee of Ways and Means on certain sections which he has referred to as taxation sections. As I say, the point raised is indeed a very interesting and important one. As he has pointed out, there is a great difference between the Committee of the Whole and the Committee of Ways and Means. On motion to go into Committee of Ways and Means, as Honourable Members know, they have the opportunity of bringing to the attention of the House certain grievances. That is one very important difference.

The Minister of Finance has stated that there are many precedents for the procedure which has been followed in this case. I understand he is tabling an opinion to that effect which he has received from the law clerks. I would hesitate to interfere with the work of the Committee of the Whole at this stage. I am not saying whether I agree or disagree with the point raised by the Honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre. As he stated, the matter was mentioned in the House by the Honourable Member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) either on the resolution stage or on second reading. I am not sure which, but in any event the question was raised at that time by the Honourable Member for Lake Centre. Therefore the House was aware of that point.

The Bill received second reading, and with the House aware of the question as to whether or not the Committee of Ways and Means should be set up, the House ordered that the whole bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole. The sections in dispute at present might have been considered the last time the bill was in Committee of the Whole. Then this motion could not have been made now. My point is that it is now too late to raise this question. It is a rule of the House that Points of Order must be raised at the time they occur in the House. In my opinion this Point of Order, especially after the question of procedure had been brought to the attention of the House, should have been raised at the time the motion was made for the Speaker to leave the Chair for the House to resolve itself into Committee of the Whole upon the bill. See Beauchesne 3rd Edition, citation 112.

I repeat that the Order passed by the House was that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole not on certain sections of the bill but on the whole bill. In view of that I would not rule at this time that the House cannot resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the sections of the bill which it has not yet considered. I therefore leave the chair in accordance with the Order which has been read at the Table: "House again in Committee of the Whole."

By unanimous consent, the House reverted to "Motions" under "Routine Proceedings".