

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

the Minister of Finance, who has been banking illegally despite the fact that the Bank Act is under his jurisdiction. I ask these ministers to get up and deny it.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 6c carry?

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Chairman, what we have seen tonight in the last half hour is a good example how the government wastes time. Thirty minutes ago I suggested to the minister that if he did not have the answers from the officials of the department in the gallery, we should go on to deal with the estimates of another department. The minister made back-handed comments, if you want to call them that, which certainly did not satisfactorily answer the questions asked from this side of the house.

We have consumed 30 minutes of time. When the house resumes tomorrow the minister can come here prepared to answer the questions. The reason we want answers to our questions is that the minister said he disposed of an asset of this country for \$1, which he said was a liability; yet he was prepared to put \$1,120,000 into this plant before he disposed of it. These actions require explanations in the House of Commons. When a minister knows he is coming into the House of Commons with five items of supplementary estimates, surely he can come prepared to answer the questions he can expect from members of parliament whose duty it is to scrutinize the estimates brought before the house. I deplore the fact that this amount of time has been consumed tonight, but it has not been our fault; it has been caused by the minister's lack of preparation in coming before the house with his estimates.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 6c carry?

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): No.

Mr. Starr: Ten o'clock.
Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the government house leader which supplementary estimates we will be considering tomorrow and Thursday.

Mr. MacEachen: We will continue with the estimates under consideration by the committee, namely, those of the Department of Defence Production, followed by the estimates

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and the departments as listed in supplementary estimates (C) in the order in which they are listed.

Mr. Knowles: Wouldn't we make more progress if we were on Bill C-190?

Some hon. Members: No.

• (10:00 p.m.)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS—HEARING AIDS—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO PRICES

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, among the various complaints which come from consumers none are more distressing or more far reaching than the complaints from people who need hearing aids. All of us receive numerous requests that an investigation be made into the business of hearing aids to see whether some protection can be afforded to the elderly people who have to use them. An investigation in my province has shown that one in every four elderly people has to have a hearing aid.

Among the letters that I have received, I have one from an elderly man in Ontario who cannot afford a hearing aid, and another one from a man in Montreal who is in his 69th year and has had to buy four hearing aids in the last ten years. His most recent difficulty arose with a hearing aid which he purchased not so long ago for \$325. It was in good working order but it was very heavy. So he traded it in and received only \$25, but was charged \$340 for a new hearing aid. Evidently his \$340 did not go very far. What he bought was a spectacle type hearing aid for which, he told me, the suppliers used the frame and the lenses he had, and just changed the two stems from the frame to his ears. They used the ear mould from his old hearing aid. For that service he had to pay \$340. That is just one example of many.

There was such an outcry about hearing aids recently in British Columbia that the minister of industry in that province directed his department to make an investigation into the matter. As a result it was found that the retail mark-ups on hearing aids sold in Vancouver and Victoria were as high as 306 per