

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): When he filed that sessional paper on October 15, did he draw the attention of the house to it, as he did to the estimates and supplementary estimates which he tabled that day, by saying a few words about them?

Mr. Fleming: No, Mr. Chairman. I followed the correct and proper procedure, as I shall demonstrate to all members—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Is there any rule against it?

Mr. Fleming:—who are not approaching this question with their minds blurred by prejudice and passion today and by their bad attack of jitters. There was the matter on the records of the house. Surely hon. members well know that the Financial Administration Act is the statute which gives authority to the Queen's privy council to appropriate money—I said "appropriate money"—by governor general's warrants. It is not much use, Mr. Chairman, for parliament to legislate in terms of requiring that the government table documents in the house, for ministers of the crown then to follow the provisions of the statute and table those documents in the house, for the proceedings of the house to be printed, showing clearly that those documents, printed in both languages, have been tabled, if we are to be told then that something further is required and that is not enough to bring it to the attention of hon. members. Those who legislated in terms of section 28 of the Financial Administration Act put a higher value upon the sense of responsibility of members of the house than those opposite today who are trying in this sham effort to say that we did not do enough to bring this matter to the attention of the house, that what we should have done was to read this document to the house.

It would have been quite irregular and improper to have read that document in the house. The document was tabled in the house in accordance with the provisions of the law enacted by the parliament of Canada.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Where is the rule that denies you the right to read it aloud?

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, I made some passing observation a moment ago about the timing of these observations on the part of hon. members opposite, but that is not the only extraordinary feature of this debate. Another extraordinary feature is the way in which the Leader of the Opposition and those of his one hundred odd followers who still remain around here have chosen not to follow a self-respecting and courageous course in

[Mr. Fleming.]

this matter but to jump on the bandwagon of the C.C.F. and to say "Me too".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): They have to be smart once in a while.

Mr. Fleming: Only a few days ago over television and radio in this country we had from the Liberal national convention those great speeches, the waving of the arms, the rousing cheers, and we were told the one thing the country needed to put it back in shape was the implementation of what were called Liberal principles. Well, Mr. Chairman, you can see a demonstration today of Liberal principles. If you did not see any Liberal principles at stake you certainly did see some Liberal tactics, 1958 version.

Mr. Boivin: Where were you during the vote yesterday?

Mr. Fleming: I voted, Mr. Chairman. These hon. members opposite who have passed orders in council themselves before to appropriate money by means of governor general's warrants, waited until the deputy leader of the C.C.F. raised this point and then after they had sat back and listened to it being discussed for some time on both sides of the house, eventually the Leader of the Opposition actually got to the point of standing up and saying: "Well, count us in too".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fleming: I am sure we will recognize the demonstration of courage on the part of the Leader of the Opposition today, a lot more courage than he demonstrated in the house a week ago last Monday. At any rate, the Leader of the Opposition has taken a long stride forward today. He has actually got to the point of following the lead of the group to his left. Talk about leadership! This is secondary leadership, this is vicarious leadership; this is the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre leading the Leader of the Opposition. This has been an interesting day, Mr. Chairman, and those on this side of the house gaze upon a picture now that would make the angels weep.

In the face of all the misleading statements that have been made emanating from hon. members opposite may I turn to the legislation, the history of the legislation, and the use that has been made of it. I mentioned the fact that legislation providing for appropriation of money by governor general's warrants goes back to 1878, 80 years ago, and it has been used on numerous occasions.

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, today it will suffice us if we interest ourselves particularly