

it is the understanding of the hon. member that his notice of objection does not create a precedent, then it is not the motion that is put before the House—but what is put to the House for a vote, if hon. members wish to divide, is the motion of the President of the Treasury Board. Certainly I do not want to be so difficult as to object to putting the minister's motion. The House can vote on that, not on the hon. member's amendment, not really on his notice of objection but on the minister's motion itself.

● (2300)

I have no objection to stretching an interpretation of the rule to that extent and to do what I was about to do 30 or 40 minutes ago, that is, put to the House the motion which stands in the name of the President of the Treasury Board.

The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) moves:

That vote 20a, in the amount of \$1,009,000 of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for Earth Sciences—program expenditures in Supplementary Estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974, be concurred in.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite clear from the wording of the notice of opposition and from the amendment that what we were trying to do was to affect the salary of the minister because we have lost confidence in his ability.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: However, we certainly do not wish to vote against the whole of this item in the supplementary estimates, so we would be quite happy, if Your Honour and the House agreed, to pass the motion to concur in that one item, on division.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the item carry, on division?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion (Mr. Drury) agreed to.

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A)

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board) moved:

That supplementary Estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974, laid before the House November 7, 1973, except the item disposed of earlier this day, be concurred in.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen).

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have another serious point of order to raise.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: That is typical, sir. They do not want to go by the rules over there.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: Whenever anyone rises on this side of the House, I suggest to you, sir—

Disposition of Supply Motions

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please. The hon. member for Yukon has the floor on a point of order.

Mr. Nielsen: I suggest to you, sir, that if the braying donkeys over there are patient, they will find that even their own House leader will agree that the point of order which I am about to raise is a very valid one indeed.

Mr. Jerome: That will be a change.

Mr. Nielsen: Not at all. The hon. member says that will be a change. He is one of those who oppressively runs his committee of this House to prevent members of the opposition—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Jerome: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I just mention that if the hon. member would be good enough to consult some of his colleagues who showed up at all of the meetings of the justice committee, he would find that his last statement was false.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of chairmanship we have in the committees staffed by Liberal members, rising on spurious points of order or questions of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: At this time we take objection to and raise a point of order respecting the motion which reads as follows:

... to concur in Supplementary Estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1974, laid before the House November 7, 1973, except the item disposed of earlier this day.

The item disposed of earlier this day, of course, is vote 20a. The basis of this point of order, sir, is your own ruling of March 10, 1971, for any hon. members opposite who want to gain even a scintilla of an insight into the rules of this House. On that occasion objection was raised on a motion under Standing Order 59 to send supplementary estimates to certain standing committees. The suggestion was that this included certain books that were in fact intended as amendments to certain statutes. Mr. Speaker ruled on that occasion that in view of the situation created by the new rules, two items were not before the House in proper form, that the legislative proposals in them should be brought before the House by way of a bill. On that occasion that is exactly what happened.

The ruling of the Chair is contained in the *Journals* of the House of Commons for March 10, 1971. At page 396, the Chair outlined the difference in the situation with respect to a statutory item and those items that were non-statutory. Briefly, it was concluded at that time that the House itself had the right to deal on the floor with statutory