

Mr. BLACKMORE: I stand subject to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but it is my understanding that any hon. member has a right to voice any grievance on a motion to go into supply.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): On the point of order, may I call your honour's attention to citation 488 of Beauchesne:

Whenever an order of the day has been read for the house to resolve itself into the committee of supply or the committee of ways and means, the motion "That the Speaker do now leave the chair" must be proposed, except in cases provided by standing order 28. When such motion is proposed, it shall be permissible to discuss any public matter within the powers of the federal parliament or to ask for the redress of any grievance, and it is not necessary to move an amendment for that purpose; provided that the discussion and the amendment, if one is moved, shall not relate to any decision of the house during the current session, nor to any item of the estimates, nor to any resolution to be proposed to the committee of ways and means, nor to any matter placed on or whereof notice has been given in the order paper.

Surely the matters my hon. friend is discussing, namely credit and money, the national debt and so on, have been discussed three or four times during this session, and there is already on the order paper a motion on which that discussion has taken place, which discussion will be resumed when that order is reached.

Mr. PELLETIER: Speaking to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I submit that the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) is not discussing credit and currency but is discussing a proposal to give the people of Canada free butter. His argument so far, as we have understood it, has been in connection with the distribution of butter free of charge in Canada.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does any other hon. member wish to speak to the point of order? I think the point of order raised by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) is well taken. The paragraph of Beauchesne quoted by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) applies to this matter, which has been discussed already this session. There is also another paragraph of Beauchesne, No. 304, at page 101, which applies in this instance:

It is a wholesome restraint upon members to prevent them from reviving a debate already concluded; and it would be little use in preventing the same question from being offered twice in the same session if, without being offered, its merits might be discussed again and again.

This matter has been discussed already this session, and there remains on the order paper a resolution which will permit hon. members [Mr. Dunning.]

to discuss further this question of social credit. I think the hon. member, having aired his grievance, might consider the matter ended.

Mr. MacINNIS: Mr. Speaker, shortly before the house adjourned last night I was told that if the Speaker was allowed to leave the chair to-day we should go on with the same business we were considering yesterday and last week. Had I not been so advised I would have moved the adjournment of the debate. This afternoon I came prepared to speak on that question, and I want to get on with it as soon as possible. I do not want to stand in the way of urgent business, however, and if I may be assured that the discussion will be continued I will stand aside.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We shall continue with it.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

#### INTERIM SUPPLY BILL

Mr. DUNNING moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$45,095,590.78, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the several items to be voted, as set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. DUNNING moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$567,471.83, being one-third of the amount of each of the several following items to be voted, as set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, in addition to the sum mentioned in resolution No. 1, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940, namely:

Vote No. 109, The Senate, general administration.

Vote No. 112, The House of Commons, general administration.

Vote No. 113, The House of Commons, estimates of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Vote No. 377, Trade and Commerce, Commercial Intelligence Service.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. DUNNING moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$212,500, being one-half of the amount of the following items to be voted, as set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, in

addition to the sum mentioned in resolution No. 1, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940, namely:

Vote No. 367, Secretary of State, Their Majesties' visit.

Vote No. 444, Transport, Their Majesties' visit.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. DUNNING moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$20,389,783, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the several items to be voted, as set forth in the special supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1940.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I may say to my hon. friend that at the moment we are putting through some interim supply, and as soon as that is disposed of we shall go on with the external affairs estimates.

Mr. DUNNING: Perhaps I may be permitted to give a word of explanation as to what is involved in this interim supply. It must be remembered that April is now well along, and we have to provide for salaries and also, particularly, for certain payments under the relief acts. This resolution provides for one-sixth of all items in the main and supplementary estimates. Then an additional one-third is asked for to cover parliamentary expenditures, which as hon. members know are not on an average monthly basis but which accumulate in the months during which parliament is in session. Then we are asking an additional one-half of one vote under the Secretary of State in order to provide for general expenses in connection with the visit to Canada of their majesties, and also one-half of a transport vote in the same connection. That is what is provided for in the resolution now before the chair. I need not say of course that the passing of interim supply in no way debars the right to debate, and discussion, and decision upon any item contained in any of the estimates, of which a portion is here asked.

Mr. MANION: The Minister of Finance has covered the point I was going to make. So long as hon. members understand they have the right to discuss any item, and that this does not mean the approval of any individual item, I shall have no objection personally to the passing of interim supply.

Mr. DUNNING: It involves no commitment on any individual item.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

#### WAYS AND MEANS

##### INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

Mr. DUNNING: Mr. Chairman, I desire to move the following resolution covering the amounts dealt with a few moments ago in committee of supply:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1940, the sums of \$45,875,562.61 and \$20,389,783 respectively be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Dunning thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 73, for granting to his majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1940.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

On section 1—Short title.

Mr. DUNNING: The bill follows exactly the terms of the resolutions which have just been adopted.

Section agreed to.

Sections 2 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

Schedules A and B agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

#### SUPPLY

##### DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Mr. MacINNIS: Mr. Speaker, during the—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I would point out to the hon. member that it is just a matter of making the procedure regular. If he were to speak now I should imagine he would be continuing the debate of yesterday, which was concluded last night. But if he waits until His Honour the Speaker leaves the chair he will have the same opportunity to speak in committee on matters relating to external affairs. It is just a matter of keeping the procedure regular.