

approach; but I suggest that with this measure, as with any other, the will of the majority of the House will prevail.

Mr. Olivier: You have not answered my question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question? I see the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) rising. Is he rising on a point of order?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): No, Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair is in a technical difficulty inasmuch as I am under the impression the hon. member has already spoken. Perhaps I am mistaken. If so, perhaps the hon. member can confirm my mistake.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I think Your Honour will find that I spoke on a point of order. I know that my name appears in the index of *Hansard* for the Thursday of the week before Christmas. I myself wondered why my name appeared, but I assure Your Honour that I spoke only to a point of order and that I have not spoken on the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sure the House will accept the word of the hon. member. I thought the hon. member spoke when his leader had moved an amendment. In any event, I will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like in my opening words to congratulate the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) on the brief but constructive speech he just made. It was obvious that, sitting where he does in this House, it was not easy for him to speak against this bill. I think all of us should pay him our respect for the stand he took.

The hon. member referred to his having been through this experience in 1971 and, since he is being obliged to go through it again, he feels strongly that a better way should be found to deal with this matter. I can say to the hon. member that this is the fifth time I have been through this experience and I thoroughly agree that we should find a better way—

An hon. Member: You have been here a long time; why couldn't you suggest something better?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: But you guys are the government.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): We have tried, Mr. Speaker, and I want to say that I approve of the two main points that I gather the hon. member for Davenport was trying to make. They were, one, that there should be some kind of outside body which should make the judgment as to what the remuneration of members of parliament ought to be; two, that any decision made by a parliament regarding the remuneration of members of parliament should come into effect at the beginning of the next ensuing parliament.

Members' Salaries

I congratulate the hon. member on the statement he made. I was glad to hear him say that he fought for his view in the caucus of which he is a member. I wish that his fellow members had listened to him more intently.

An hon. Member: But he is not the government.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is evident from the interruptions and the catcalls coming from across the way that feelings tend to run high in this kind of debate.

An hon. Member: That's right. This is unpleasant.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It can become quite an unpleasant experience. Some of us may feel that we are on the right side of the issue and that outside this House there is support for our position; nevertheless, it is not pleasant to stand in this House and feel that most members are critical of what one is saying.

Perhaps I might be allowed to lighten the atmosphere of this House a bit by recounting an incident which took place in January on a bus, south of London, England. The Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, of which I have the honour to be a member, spent about ten days in London, in the middle of January, studying the procedures at Westminster and giving thought to our own. When we finished our deliberations we were driven one dark Sunday night from London by bus down to a town near Gatwick Airport, where we were to spend the night so that we could get our aircraft from Gatwick the next morning.

We had a fine driver, but he had never been to the hotel where we were to spend the night. After he drove around for some time in different directions it became obvious we were lost. Actually he stopped a couple of times and went into one place or another to find out where we were and how to get to the hotel. Our only concern was that it was getting late. But the concern we felt as we sat in that bus gave way to a sensation of delightful relief when, out of the silence, came the poetic voice of the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. MacFarlane), who said something like this, "Well, there is one thing that is good. If we are lost, it means that Stanley won't get back to Ottawa in time to stop the pay bill."

An hon. Member: But here you are.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I made some remark to the effect that I would get here somehow; and here I am. And, if possible, I should like to see Bill C-44 stopped. I say that categorically.

An hon. Member: Because that is in your interest.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I say to my hon. friends opposite that I do not have many notes in front of me and if they interrupt me, they will help me. I will be able to speak for the full 40 minutes.

I say to this House candidly that I wish, with all my heart, that this parliament had what it takes to say no to this bill. If this House could send this bill back to where it came from it could well be one of our finest hours.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!