

others, and one that it is proper to deal with, even before reciprocity, is the voting of Supply.

Mr. TAYLOR (New Westminster). With the permission of the House, and as the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was not in his place when I spoke before, and you have referred the matter to him, I would like to say a word in explanation. I did not state what communications I proposed to present to the House, but I do state now that they are communications that, to my mind, have a direct bearing on the question of Supply inasmuch as we have been told this afternoon that we shall be required to vote Supply before another very important subject is taken up. To my mind, that strengthens the position which I took at the outset, that, on the motion for Supply, I have the right to present to the House, before the Speaker leaves the chair, any communication which may seem to be a reason why we should not proceed to vote Supply until we first hear these reasons. And I submit that, if the ruling suggested applies to this motion to go into Supply, it will apply equally to a motion to go into Ways and Means, and we shall have no opportunity to present these communications until the Speaker has left the Chair and the House is actually in Committee of Ways and Means. It seems to me that is quite clear—that the two motions are identical so far as the reading of communications is concerned; and, if so, none of us will have an opportunity of presenting messages of our constituents, until, in the ordinary course, the time comes when each in his time has an opportunity to speak in Committee of Ways and Means which may not be for a month or more, and may be at a time altogether too late for communications we seek to present to have any effect. I think I have the right, and I respectfully ask the ruling of the Chair on the point.

Mr. SPEAKER. Objection having been taken, I have to sustain the objection, on the ground that the matter has been referred to the Committee of Ways and Means of the House, and we are now on a motion to go into Supply. The authorities say that, when a matter is referred to a committee, it cannot be discussed in the House.

Mr. TAYLOR (New Westminster). I believe I am entitled to hear quoted the rule referred to.

Mr. BLAIN. I would ask the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) what the members on this side of the House are to do with the large number of communications that are being received every mail entering protest against the reciprocity proposal. If we cannot present them, and cannot direct the right hon. gentleman's attention to them, what are we to do with them?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Keep them.

Mr. SPEAKER. Bourinot at page 585 says:

Members may discuss various questions on the motion for the Speaker to leave the chair, without moving amendments thereto—a great latitude being always allowed on such occasions; but they may not refer specifically to any vote which has passed, or is about to be discussed in committee, nor to any resolution of the Committee of Ways and Means.

This matter, having been referred to Committee of Ways and Means, the rule applies.

Mr. TAYLOR (New Westminster). There is a rule of the House required, I believe, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know the language of the rule of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER. The custom of parliament governs when there is no specific rule.

Mr. BURRELL. May I ask for an explanation of that particular point? As you quoted Bourinot, Mr. Speaker, I understood it was a question of discussion of a subject, whereas, I understand, my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor, New Westminster), does not wish to discuss the subject but simply puts before the House a message of his constituents.

Mr. SPEAKER. It was argued the other day that messages, &c., read here were arguments for or against the question referred to Committee of Ways and Means. And my decision is that the question cannot be discussed on a motion to go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. CAMPBELL. The first minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) a few moments ago, in answer to my hon. friend from Peel (Mr. Blain), who put a very modest request with regard to petitions made for or against this matter of reciprocity from the constituents of members in every part of Canada, and what was to be done with them, said, 'Keep them.' Do I understand the first minister to give that advice to members on his own side, as well as to members on this side, as to communications from our people who are vitally interested in this matter of reciprocity, and who ask us to lay their views, whether for or against the proposal, before the House. Is the only answer we can give in the words of the first minister, 'Keep them?' I think, Sir, that must be a mere parody of parliamentary usage and procedure. Surely, the first minister must revise this advice to us, and I would ask him to revise it now.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If the constituents of my hon. friend have remonstrances to the House they can be offered by way of petition, and petitions will be received by the House every day. Petitions, by a new rule, are sent to the Clerk, or they may be