

National Defence Act Amendment

NATIONAL DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENT

AMALGAMATION OF NAVY, ARMY AND
AIR FORCE

On the order:

Government orders—The Minister of National Defence—House again in committee of the whole on Bill C-243, an act to amend the National Defence Act and other acts in consequence thereof (as amended).

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the house do now proceed to order No. 134, namely second reading of Bill C-278, an act respecting the occupational training of adults.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the house will allow the Chair a moment or two for consultation in order to ascertain the number of the standing order which is thought to be relevant to the present situation.

● (3:50 p.m.)

Order, please. I am now prepared to make a ruling on the motion presented to the house a moment ago by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. It has been brought to my attention—and I am sure hon. members realize the difficulty with which the Chair is faced in connection with the motion presented by the hon. member—that the order of business is according to our standing orders, proposed by the government itself. I draw the attention of hon. members to standing order 18 which reads as follows:

(1) All items standing on the orders of the day, except government orders, shall be taken up according to the precedence assigned to each on the order paper.

(2) Except as provided in standing orders 43 and 56, government orders may be called in such sequence as the government may think fit.

An order has been called by the government today, and the only way we could proceed in accordance with the motion presented by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre would be by suspending, with unanimous consent, the provisions of standing order 18. That can only be done by unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There appears to be some doubt whether there is unanimous consent. I would ask the house whether there is unanimous agreement to suspend the provisions of standing order 18 so that I may put to the

yesterday was the only one of an official character and it included only the motto in paragraph 27. There was later typed another edition of the constitution of the order, because it was felt that it would be helpful to my right hon. friend and to members of the press to identify the source of this particular motto. Unfortunately there was a misprint and the figure "12" should have been "11". My right hon. friend, with his deep knowledge of the Scriptures, could have been expected to notice this misprint, and he did in fact spot it immediately.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I thank the Prime Minister for that reference but I ask him now, when did the change or removal take place in that portion of the constitution which was filed yesterday?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, nothing was removed from the document that was tabled. This addition was made to the document that was circulated for the information of the press.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, if this scriptural reference was made for the edification of the people of Canada, the Prime Minister has certainly edified them.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO
PERMIT RECONCILIATION WITH
PROVINCIAL PLANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I intended to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare but in his absence I shall address it to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that at least one provincial government has expressed its inability or unwillingness to meet the conditions of the federal medicare plan and that other provinces have indicated that the interpretation of the act will be very difficult to reconcile with their own plans, does the government intend to propose any amendments in order that the medicare plan can be reconciled with provincial plans?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare is at the moment discussing this and related matters with provincial ministers of health. Perhaps he will have a report to make after the discussion is complete. I cannot assume that any amendment to the act will be required.