

Supply

President of the Treasury Board. I scurried around during the question period making sure that things were properly organized. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will be here at 4.30, the Minister of Transport is here now, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will be here at five o'clock and remain until ten o'clock this evening to answer questions. Basically I am supporting the agreement made between the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, the House leader for our side and the House leader for the Conservative side.

The Chairman: Order, please. I am hoping we can minimize these comments. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Alexander: On the point of order, I am somewhat amazed at the steps the government is taking in order to protect the President of the Treasury Board. As I understand it, and as a matter of fact, your list indicates—

An hon. Member: Question!

Mr. Alexander: Why don't you smarten up? There is no question. I am on a point of order.

An hon. Member: Arrogance. I thought you were leaving.

The Chairman: The hon. member should address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Alexander: Yes, I am leaving. Sometimes I have mixed emotions about that. What I noticed was this. We see the President of the Treasury Board sitting with his officials, which gives some indication that he is *rarin'* to go. He was prepared to go on but it is only the President of the Treasury Board who is going as far as the agreement is concerned. As I understand it, there is an agreement in existence right now that it is the President of the Treasury Board who was to be questioned today, notwithstanding what the hon. member to my left has said.

The Chairman: Order, please. With all due respect to the hon. member, the committee now has before it consideration of clause 2 of the estimates. The hon. member for South West Nova has the floor. Before the adjournment last night I understand there was an agreement, as recorded in *Hansard*, concerning the ministers who would be present today. I am not privy to any other details of that agreement except that the Chair has taken note of the fact that certain ministers, by arrangement, would be present in the House, and two of those ministers are here at the present time. It seems to me the Chair has no other course than to recognize the hon. member for South West Nova and she has the right to place whatever matters she wishes before the committee at this point.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Olivier: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

The Chairman: I would ask the hon. member for Longueuil to be as brief as possible.

Mr. Olivier: Mr. Chairman, I will be quite brief. I merely want to remind the House that my colleague opposite when he was minister made his officials answer in committee while today he is asking the opposite. I wonder how he can do so now.

[*English*]

The Chairman: Order, please. I am sure hon. members are anxious to proceed with consideration of the estimates presently before the committee. The hon. member for South West Nova.

Miss Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I will continue my remarks concerning the upgrading of highway agreements entered into by the province of Nova Scotia and the federal government early in 1978. When I was interrupted I think I was saying—it is hard to recapture one's trend of thought—that the purpose of the agreements was the upgrading and reinforcing of the highway system in Nova Scotia and, in particular, the 100 series—101 and 103—which are directly related to South West Nova.

I would like to find out from the minister what has taken place under the agreement, how much money has been spent by the province and how much the federal government has contributed. At the same time there are many areas through the southern part of the province which are getting better highways affording better access to and from Halifax and the southern end of Nova Scotia.

Before asking further questions concerning the highway agreement, I wonder whether the minister could tell me how much has been spent, how much is to be committed this year, how much is left under the agreement, and which projects have been agreed to under the agreement for the coming season. I ask these questions as I believe we are entering the final year of the agreement. Perhaps I could have the answers before proceeding further.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Chairman, I must admit to feeling a little solitary at the moment. I would appreciate it if my hon. friend would kindly continue her remarks as I would like to make a number of comments before proceeding to answer specific questions which she raised. So if she would do so, I would appreciate her continuing her remarks. I assure the hon. lady that I am making extensive notes.

● (1540)

Miss Campbell: I thank the minister. I hope he remembers the questions. They were about Via Rail and the amount of subsidy. On the highway upgrading agreement it was particularly with respect to the amount spent to date by the federal government in contrast to the cost-sharing agreement. In addition, what highways will be upgraded in the future, particularly as they relate to South West Nova?

I would also like to go back to the decision to go from Kingston down through the valley to Annapolis Royal. At that time there was much concern among the people in the valley—both pro and con—as to the route. Most people would like to