

*Supply—Finance*

general forecasts about a budget within the next three or four weeks. If this is to be the case, then I say to the minister and the government house leader who is present today, it is high time we dealt with the budget resolutions and the bills flowing from them arising out of the June budget before we get into the nonsensical position of having a new budget without having dealt with the measures arising out of the June budget. In the light of economic conditions in the country, these budgetary measures are even more important than some of the other legislation which seems to have been given priority.

For instance, I think of the bill dealing with capital punishment which seems to have been given priority. The question of capital punishment will engender considerable debate in the house. The broadcasting measure is another which will take a large share of the time of the house. There are others, too, in the hopper that are given greater priority than the budget resolutions. I say to the Minister of Finance and his colleagues that immediately upon the termination of the debate on the broadcasting measure, which I think we should complete for the sake of orderly discussion of business, we should then move to the budget resolutions and the bills that flow from them before we do anything else.

Since the minister spoke in the budget debate, a great feeling of uneasiness has developed in the country. I need only point, for instance, to the speech which was delivered by the chairman of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. I trust the minister will see fit to comment on Mr. McKinnon's remarks because they are a damning indictment of government policy. I will not say fiscal policy because there is no such policy. It was rather strange to have the minister tell the House of Commons he was quite sensitive to criticism of government policies, did not think the strong language used by Mr. McKinnon was helpful and rather thought the situation might be worsened. On the other hand, I do not believe Mr. McKinnon said anything much different from what was implied in the speech by the governor of the Bank of Canada yesterday. I am not going to go through Mr. McKinnon's speech, but here it is. I know he has been commenting over a period of years, and I intend to agree—

**Mr. Sharp:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member who is beginning the discussion of the estimates of the

Department of Finance today was, I believe, fairly relevant in his earlier observations to the item under discussion, namely the Tariff Board. He made some quite relevant remarks about the Kennedy round. However, I believe he is beginning to stray into a much larger subject. The reason I raise the point now, Mr. Chairman, is that if I let these remarks pass it may be suggested I am in agreement that they are pertinent to the item under discussion. As the hon. gentleman himself has pointed out, we have had one day of general debate on the Department of Finance. We have had a budget debate of several days' duration, which was restarted by a statement I made to provoke discussion on the current situation. This statement was debated for the full length of the budget debate. The budgetary resolutions are still to come, at which time all these comments would be quite pertinent. As I have indicated in the house, I intend to make a statement soon. I can assure members that whichever form the statement takes, it will be debatable. In other words, the government itself will see that time is available for debate.

I know some question has been raised in connection with the short time available for discussion of the remainder of the estimates. I raise the question now, Mr. Chairman, whether this is the best use of that time, and I would welcome from you some guidance to the committee on whether the debate should be permitted to go on in this way.

**The Chairman:** May I point out to the committee that I have been listening to the remarks that have been made. I know we are on vote No. 25 of the estimates of the Department of Finance. Usually there is a rather general discussion on vote No. 1, but on vote No. 25 I would expect the committee to confine its remarks to the item which is before the committee.

**Mr. Lambert:** I fully realize, Mr. Chairman, that I have strayed slightly but I indicated at the start of my remarks that I might want to stray somewhat from item 25. I was hoping the minister might, under certain tolerant circumstances, perhaps allow a little wider debate. Since he and you, Sir, have called me to order, I am going to comply and I will limit my remarks to item 25 dealing with the Tariff Board. This involves the levels of tariff and perhaps some of the customs procedures. Admittedly, these are under the Minister of National Revenue, but it is rather difficult to separate the two.