

*Veterans' Pensions*

cent, 40 per cent and so on. If we can get those lines out, then this is an awfully good bill. It puts the provisions into effect on October 1. Therefore, I move:

That Bill C-40 be amended on page 11 by deleting therefrom lines 14 to 31 inclusive.

In the French text, it would be lines *quatorze* to *trente-deux*.

**Mr. Collenette:** Mr. Chairman, I challenge the validity of this amendment and offer a few citations for your consideration. First, only the Crown can alter the royal prerogative. Standing Order 62(1) clearly states:

This House shall not adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue or of any tax or impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended to the House by a message from the Governor General in the session in which such vote, resolution, address or bill is proposed.

I would argue that even though the wording of the hon. member's proposal does not actually call for an increase in expenditure, the effect of the deletion of lines 14 to 32 of this clause would be to increase expenditure. For this reason the motion is out of order since the hon. member does not sit on the treasury benches.

● (1730)

There are two other citations at which hon. members might want to look. Citation 773(7) clearly states:

An amendment is out of order if it imposes a charge upon the public treasury, if it extends the objects and purposes, or relaxes the conditions and qualifications as expressed in the royal recommendation.

This arose from a decision by Mr. Speaker Lamoureux in June of 1969.

I could go on to cite Beauchesne's Fourth Edition, which clearly outlines the same principle in citation 246(3). Rather than read it, I will draw your attention to it. In net effect, I am objecting to the procedural acceptability of the amendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is perfectly right that a member not of the cabinet does not have the right to propose in positive terms a bill or a motion calling for the expenditure of money. I am not doing that. The parliamentary secretary will contend, quite rightly, that the effect of my amendment is to increase the charge on the treasury because all this money would have to be paid this year instead of over six and a half years. But I know from memory that it has happened a number of times if it is done in this way. Let me put it this way. There is no rule in our procedures or anywhere else which says that we have to vote for everything that is put before us. We can vote against any clause in a bill.

There is also a provision that a clause can be divided into its constituent parts, and I could ask you, Mr. Chairman, to divide clause 14 into its constituent parts so that we could vote for all the other subclauses but not vote for subclause (3.2). All I am asking is that we be given the democratic right to vote against something that is put before us. The effect of that, as I said, will be for the money to have to be paid. I did not see

the bill until noon today, and I am sorry that I did not anticipate this to the point of looking up some precedents, but I know that it has happened a number of times that we have been permitted to vote against something, even though the effect of such a vote would be to increase the cost, provided we are not proposing it in positive terms.

All I am asking is that you allow members of the House the right to vote for or against what is put before them, not to be told on a procedural point that we have to vote for what is in front of us.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, I must say that I listened with great interest to what I think is a most ingenious argument, an argument the ingenuity of which one would be hard pressed to find against, and I urge you to find in favour of the amendment.

The precedents which have been read by the parliamentary secretary apply to a situation which is not the situation which has been placed before us by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Aside from the procedures, which I think are quite in order, with respect to the amendments, for the reasons given by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, I think everyone in the House had better consider the effect of having this matter struck down in procedural terms. The effect of its having been struck down in procedural terms is not to give the House the opportunity of improving upon the benefits that have been proposed in this bill. Because, in fact, the benefits, in terms of the payment out to veterans, will be improved. That goes to the merits of the bill itself.

I think we have to be extremely careful that we do not put ourselves in the position here of depriving members of Parliament of their ability to vote against something that is put in front of them. So I would urge you, Mr. Chairman, with respect, to find in favour of the amendment and to allow it so that not only will the bill be improved in terms of veterans but that as well the right of members of Parliament in dealing with legislation will be protected.

**Mr. McKinnon:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a very short contribution regarding one of the references made by the parliamentary secretary about the power to have bills prepared which involve the expenditure of money. If he would check with Bill C-578 standing in my name on the order paper, which is an act to amend the Pension Act, the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, he would find that there are occasions, exceptional occasions I grant you, when such bills are accepted. In that spirit, I think we should be able to support the amendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, a very worth-while amendment which I would find quite easy to accept.

**Mr. Collenette:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I do not want to prolong this debate unduly, but my point does go to the heart of responsible British parliamentary government, and that is the ability of the Crown to initiate all