

Supply—National Defence

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What is wrong with this?

Mr. Churchill: I will tell the hon. member for Essex East, who should be an upholder of parliamentary usage and custom rather than one who is tearing it down, what is wrong with it.

Mr. Pickersgill: The minister is trying to impose closure.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Harkness: My colleague is speaking on a point of order.

The Chairman: The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Essex East on a question of privilege.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, the minister says that instead of joining in this chorus of what he calls destruction I should be an upholder of the rules of the house.

Mr. Jones: You certainly should.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The hon. gentleman has given expression to an observation that he should be asked to withdraw. The minister said that I have engaged in a course of tearing down parliamentary usage and custom—

Mr. Harkness: And so you have.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Minister of National Defence accuses me of this, too. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that the people who are tearing down parliament are those who are sitting on the government side of the house.

Mr. Pickersgill: Trying to impose closure.

Mr. Benidickson: The taxpayers want to know how the money is spent.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): We have heard an observation which we might have expected from the Minister of National Defence, but it is surprising to hear from the leader of the house who is supposed to guide us in procedural matters a statement to the effect that I have contributed to the tearing down of parliament. I ask you, Mr. Chairman to invite the hon. gentleman to withdraw that remark and in asking Your Honour to do that I would ask the minister to look at my record alongside his and see who is tearing down the parliamentary institution.

Mr. Churchill: All we have to do is look back at 1956, if you like.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Will the minister not be seated? Will the Chair not be allowed to say something?

[Mr. Churchill.]

The Chairman: I will now hear the Minister of Veterans Affairs on a point of order.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member for Essex East has become super-sensitive over these expressions I will gladly withdraw that comment about tearing down the institution of parliament. But I would say that the hon. member is not contributing to the maintenance of the procedure of parliament and the usage and customs which prevail here.

My point of order is this. The hon. member who was just speaking on this item was wandering far afield. That is what is destructive of the consideration of the supplementary estimates. Although Your Honour has read—

Mr. Pickersgill: Read the debates of 1956. And you dare to get up and say that?

Mr. Jones: I truly hope you remember the debates of that year.

Mr. Churchill: I hope hon. members opposite will remember black Friday.

Mr. Pickersgill: We had black Friday last Friday, and you moved the motion.

Mr. Benidickson: Black Friday again.

The Chairman: Order. I think it would be interesting to hear the minister on the point of order, which is the only question before us at this time.

Mr. Churchill: I think it is important that we observe the rules. Only by doing so can the affairs of an institution like this be properly conducted. I believe it is important to record these words which are to be found at page 738 of May's sixteenth edition on parliamentary practice. They are to be found approximately three quarters of the way down the page:

—if the supplementary estimate is merely to provide additional funds of a relatively moderate amount required in the normal course of working of the services for which the original vote was demanded, only the reasons for the increase can be discussed and not the policy implied in the service which must be taken to have been settled by the original vote—

It is just common sense on supplementary estimates to restrict our discussion to the matter which is concerned with that supplementary estimate and not to debate the general policy of the whole department. Otherwise we would spend our time here engaging three or four times during the course of a session in repetitious discussion of policy matters.

Mr. Pickersgill: Not if you had good estimating.

Mr. Churchill: I would request the Chair to invite the hon. member who was speaking to restrict himself to the supplementary