

defeat has been sustained. The announcement was made of the defeat of the government on a vote of 137, I believe, to 107. The Chair immediately called another motion, and I seriously question whether the Chair had the right to do so.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Just a second. On that basis, so far as we are concerned the proceedings of the House were terminated as of that moment and I say, Your Honour, that since 10.25 p.m., or for the last 35 minutes, this House had been sitting illegally.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lundrigan:** And the suggestion is that the House adjourn.

**Mr. Speaker:** We can go on for a long time on points of order. The Chair, of course, heard the suggestion made by the hon. member that the business of the House cannot be continued because the government has been defeated on a vote. I did not think there should even be a debate on this, because it cannot be a point of order; it is a question of constitutional law. Certainly the Chair has enough trouble ruling on points of order without having to rule on constitutional law.

This question is not only on the point raised by the hon. member for Yukon, and I recognize its importance, but I have no intention of deciding whether the government should sit or not sit, by virtue of our constitution, in answer to a point of order. This is why I thought that if hon. members want to fight this out, they cannot fight it through Mr. Speaker. I have no intention of ruling on it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** As to the point of order, I have to bring to the attention of hon. members Standing Order 6 (4) which is clearly on the point and which confirms the suggestion I put to hon. members a moment ago. It reads:

When it is provided in any standing or special order of this House that any business specified by such order shall be continued, forthwith disposed of, or concluded in any sitting, the House shall not be adjourned before such proceedings have been completed except pursuant to a motion to adjourn proposed by a minister of the crown.

The Standing Order is very clear. I did not write the Standing Orders; I have nothing to do with writing them. I think in the circumstances I am under instructions given to the Chair by the House, that is, to put the motions and it is up to hon. members to vote against them if they so wish.

• (2300)

**Mr. Drury,** seconded by Mr. MacEachen, moved that Bill C-166, an act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1973, be now read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

### Supply

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to Standing Order 54, I now leave the chair for the House to go into committee of the whole on the said bill.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. McCleave in the chair.

On Clause 2.

**The Chairman:** Shall clause 2, as corrected, carry?

**Mr. McGrath:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, all I can say to you with great respect is that the bill before me does not contain any corrections whatsoever.

**Mr. Nielsen:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is up to the Chair to have to tell members of the committee of the whole what the correct meaning is. Since the government has taken the initiative to amend clause 2, I think that it should do it in a formal way. I think that the information should come not from you Sir, but from the government House leader, so that all hon. members will know exactly what we are voting on.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, I suggest that it is quite incorrect to say that this bill should be amended. The bill comes before us as a result of earlier votes, altered from the way in which it was printed. So what is before us now is clause 2 with a figure reduced by \$19,000. To move an amendment now would be quite out of order.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I am sorry that my choice of words—

**The Chairman:** Order. The hon. member for Yukon has already made his contribution on this particular point of order.

**Mr. Nielsen:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, and with all due respect to the Chair, I think it is incumbent on the Chair to hear members when they rise to make suggestions. I apologize to the House for using the term amendment, but surely the government House leader should tell all hon. members what words are going to be substituted for what words, because some members have blank bills before them, and goodness knows what writing appears on other bills. Surely it is incumbent on the government House leader to tell us what words and what numerals are going to be replaced with what words and what numerals.

**The Chairman:** Clause 2 is as follows: First, as a side note, there is: \$312,877,231 granted for 1972-73. The clause reads:

2. From and out of the consolidated revenue fund, there may be paid and applied a sum not exceeding in the whole three hundred and twelve million, eight hundred and seventy-seven thousand, two hundred thirty-one dollars towards defraying the several charges and expenses of the public service from the first day of April, 1972, to the thirty-first day of March, 1973, not otherwise provided for, and being the total of the amounts of the items set forth in the Supplementary Estimates (B) for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1973 (less item 16b of the Department of Finance and item 25b of the Department of Labour which have been withdrawn), as contained in the schedule to this act, \$312,877,231.

Shall the clause carry?