

Now, I do not think I should deal with all these particular cases. I believe the honourable Member should be satisfied with the reasons I have given so far. I would perhaps refer him further to May's fifteenth edition, which gives the general theory, and which is to the effect that returns may be asked for, but if there is a failure to comply, however ample the power of each House to enforce the production of papers may be, a sufficient cause must be shown for the exercise of that power, and if considerations of public policy can be urged against a motion for papers, it is either withdrawn or otherwise dealt with according to the judgment of the House. In this case, if the honourable Member wishes to complain further about the non-compliance with the order, it is not a point of order or a point of privilege, and he must do so by moving the proper motion if he deems that advisable.

And the honourable Member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) having stated that he would consider the possibility of requesting the House to order that the said return be amended;

Mr. SPEAKER: Perhaps the honourable Member would look at May's Seventh Edition, because since May refers to cases which happened between 1820 and 1876 it would be well to look at the edition of May, which is closer to the period. The Seventh Edition was published in 1873. And if the honourable Member would look at page 561 he would find the following, indicating what the old practice was with respect to these returns. It says:

In the commons, when a minister of the crown has any papers to present, he goes to the bar, and, on being called by the Speaker, he brings them up; and they are ordered to lie upon the table; but papers are also presented by other official persons. When such papers are brought up, they are generally ordered to lie upon the table, as a matter of course; but upon the question that they do lie upon the table, a debate has on some rare occasions, arisen.

Now, when the honourable Member looks at citations 445, 450 and 452 in Beauchesne's Second Edition he will find that he is dealing with the procedure as outlined in May's Seventh Edition, as I have just indicated.

The House resolved itself again into Committee of Supply.

*(In the Committee)*

The following Resolutions were adopted:

MAIN ESTIMATES

*(Less amounts voted in Interim Supply)*

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