

Supply

citizens who live in the big cities of Canada. After all we must bear in mind that most citizens live in the major centres. I must recognize that today, yesterday and the day before, I have heard about wheat and fish—which is a good thing—but I think that we should pay attention to the people who form the major part of the population.

I would like to suggest that for this time we proceed as if the schedule of departments had been drafted in French. We would first consider the items of the Veterans Affairs, External Affairs and then Urban Affairs departments.

And if you are looking for a suggestion, Mr. Chairman, I could perhaps suggest that since the Minister of Veterans Affairs is not in the House we proceed to the examination of the Department of Urban Affairs item.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. First of all, I must say that the point raised by the hon. member should have been raised when the agreement was reached by the various parties. Obviously, at this stage, it has been agreed to proceed according to the alphabetical order of the schedule to the bill. The Chair wants to be fair to the hon. member, but it must also do the same for hon. members who want to speak in the debate and who would like to know in advance the item which will be examined and, which is more important yet, for the person who must answer the questions. As far as I am concerned, if it is the wish of the committee to proceed to an item other than that of the Department of Justice, I will do as it wishes.

[*English*]

Mr. Nielsen: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that an order of the House having been made before the House resolved itself into committee of the whole, to the effect that we would deal with the estimates department by department as they appear in the schedule, the committee now has authority to change that order. I would like to be co-operative if any hon. member wishes to discuss another subject, but we are sitting today in committee of the whole.

Mr. Lang: I would certainly agree with the last comment made. I hope we can continue to follow the present order. On the other hand, the point raised by the hon. member for Scarborough West is a good one and I would be glad to undertake that when we are next in the House in these circumstances we shall try to have the French alphabet in use rather than the English alphabet.

• (1640)

Mr. Harney: Mr. Chairman, I suggest it is not a matter of having the French alphabet. The French alphabet, as you may have noticed, is exactly the same as the English except there is not common usage of the letter "w" as in "railway wagon."

An hon. Member: Or in "Wagner".

Mr. Harney: I said the French alphabet. I would not want to impose upon the committee the sudden reversal of an ancient custom that lists everything according to the English title, so I simply suggest that we adapt slowly to it in the future by drawing up lists of subjects according to their order in the alphabet in English and list the titles

[Mr. Harney.]

according to order in the alphabet in French, and then alternate between the two. This may be a rather sneaky way of getting around a discussion on urban affairs but I cannot see how else I can do it.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I do not want to prevent the hon. member from making his point, but I think this subject has been sufficiently discussed at this time. There is a process that is followed to simplify the work of the committee and the Chair, and that is to study estimates as they appear. At the same time, once study of one estimate has been completed we cannot refer back to it. I think the procedure followed is the correct one. If the estimates should be printed in another way, that is a matter for consideration at another time, not a matter for this committee. The point raised by the hon. member for Yukon was also quite valid.

The committee will now revert to the consideration of vote 1a of the Department of Justice.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, it is now 17 minutes to five, so this may be the last opportunity I will have to make this proposal. I propose at this time that we pass all the remaining items without debate and we pass both remaining stages of the bill without debate, so as to complete this matter today.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, there seems to be a sudden desire on the part of the hon. member for Yukon to make himself House leader for the government. But whatever his intention is, it does not meet with my approval and I do not give consent.

Mr. Nielsen: These are the people who want to see parliament work.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, you have called item 1a of the Department of Justice. I was amused by the remarks of the Minister of Justice recently—I am not speaking of his organic remarks in the agricultural sense—concerning some of the recommendations made by members of the judiciary. I see there is a grant of \$10,000 to the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges. Does it cover the total expenditure of that body, or are there other expenditures for ad hoc purposes or on a per capita basis?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Chairman, I am not fully conversant with the financial operations of the provincial court judges' association. As the hon. member implied, this is largely a matter for themselves and for the provincial governments. The grant referred to in the estimates in this case is specifically for the purpose of assisting the financing of a conference of provincial judges from across the country. We are conscious of the tremendous importance to the operation of the criminal law of having them meet to consider ways in which they determine appropriate sentences and other court matters. After consultations with the provincial attorneys general to be certain that they did not object to our involvement in this way, we propose to make this grant to assist in this single conference.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a follow-up question? Is the federal department making suggestions along certain lines in relation to sentencing, and will this be on the agenda? In other words, are we asking them for some