

Ways and Means

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, in reply to this question, and with due deference to my hon. friend, I will say that I do not think this is a matter to be debated at this time. However, I can assure him that the government has as much or more concern for retired civil servants as anyone else in this house. This is a matter which requires careful consideration by the government, as I have explained previously, and after due consideration the government will bring forth its proposals in this regard.

The Chairman: I must point out to the house that the Chair is attempting to follow the direction given to the Chair by the order of the house made on June 26, which was to put successively every question relating to the supply of the departments concerned. It is the interpretation of the Chair that it is the duty of the Chair to put these questions now.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): The order said "successively" but it did not say "without debate", and there is nothing in this resolution which says that it shall be put without debate. I venture to suggest that this house could go on indefinitely under the terms of this resolution. I have no intention of pursuing the matter further but I suggest that debate cannot be guillotined in this way.

The Chairman: Order. Perhaps the hon. member for Carleton would permit me to differ with him at this particular time, but as I read the instructions given to the Chair—and the Chair is in the hands of the house—the order of the house made on June 26 was that every question shall successively be put forthwith. The Chair interprets that order of the house as meaning that all the questions dealing with the estimates of the department concerned should be put now.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Benson thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-146 for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1968.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read the second time?

Some hon. Members: Now.

Mr. Knowles: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I ask whether the bill has been printed?

[Mr. Bell (Carleton).]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, the bill has been printed and copies of it are available.

Mr. Knowles: May we look at it, even if we cannot speak about it?

• (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. Benson moved the second reading of the bill.

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

Mr. Knowles: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think we have been given the wrong bill. The bill I have received is the bill for interim supply, which comes later.

Mr. Benson: This probably means we are a little bit ahead of time.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): May we just sort out this confusion? While that is being done, I wonder if we at least have the right to hear the minister give the customary assurance that this bill is in standard form?

Mr. Benson: This bill contains nothing which is not usual in such bills. I should like to say that the form of this bill is the usual one for full supply bills, and the procedure herein proposed is similar to that followed in April, 1957 when Appropriation Act No. 5, 1957 granted total supply and supplementary estimates for the Post Office Department. I should like also to state that this bill contains full supply as contained in the main estimates for the various departments involved, those departments it was agreed would be passed at this time. It does not deal with the matter of supplementary estimates.

Mr. Winch: May we also ask why we have a bill that has no number?

Clauses 2 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

The Chairman: Shall I report the bill?

Mr. Winch: May I ask, as a matter of interest, why this bill has no number? I thought it was necessary for a bill to have a number.

Mr. Benson: I presume, Mr. Chairman, this is a matter for the Chair rather than for the minister involved. I can assure my hon. friend the number will be put on this particular appropriation bill. I think it is appropriation Bill No. 5.

Bill reported.