

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements

remind all members that that is a position which the Chair is sometimes very much tempted to take, but I try mightily to stay within the rules. If I did not I am sure all Hon. Members would have something to say to the Chair, because I am your servant. The rules are made by this place and, of course, they are made to be obeyed.

Especially for the public which is listening to this debate I want to reassert that we are Members of Parliament; we are law makers, we are the inheritors of a tradition of the rule of law. As a consequence, none of us ought to take lightly the breaking of rules.

It so happens that in this case the very distinguished, remarkable and much loved Coretta Scott King was before the committee. By the way, in my view the committee had other options. It could have sat as an *ad hoc* group. It could have appended the proceedings to the further proceedings when they regrouped as a full committee. Perhaps that did not occur to the committee, but I point out that there are other ways in which this could have been approached.

It is clear that there has been a disposition among some Members of Parliament to bring television into committees, or at least into some committees. The Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior (Mr. Penner) pointed out very well that Question Period, while at its best is the finest accountability session in any free country, is not all of Parliament. I was pleased to hear him point out the incredible amount of work that goes on in committees. I am glad it has been said and repeated by members, because as Speaker I often have to remind the public that when this place is not packed after Question Period it is because members are at committees, of which there are 30 or 40 sitting at any given time including the legislative committees.

However, remembering that we do live by the rule of law I must remind Hon. Members that our rules here are the precedents of rulings set by Speakers and the Standing Orders that Hon. Members have set for themselves.

● (1550)

I remind Hon. Members that on November 6, 1980, Speaker Sauvé said on exactly this point:

After listening very carefully to the debate this afternoon, I have not been persuaded to change my opinion or to reverse the opinion of my predecessor, and I must hold the view that the televising of proceedings of standing and special committees of the House may be authorized only by the House itself.

Some time ago, before I became Speaker, the Board of Internal Economy suggested a form of order that could be presented to the House which would cover the televising of committees, or some committees. But that resolution has never been put to the House. As other Hon. Members have pointed out today, if it is the disposition of this place to have television in the committees, or in some committees, or in some circumstances, then clearly the obligation lies on members of all Parties to put the procedural rules in place to enable this to happen. Members from all Parties were at the committee today and all, quite frankly, have stated that they did want

television for that proceeding. I can understand the reasons for that.

The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier, as he said at the beginning, has raised this matter before and it is not because he is against television in committee—which I understand—but because he has, I believe, a very appropriate regard for the fact that we make rules and we must live by them.

There has been some suggestion that perhaps this is a question of privilege. I do not think that it is in the interest of members for me to really inquire very far in that direction. I think that enough has been said. I believe there is no question that what was done was against the rules, what was done could have been done in another way, and if it is to be done again it is up to Hon. Members to make sure that it is done lawfully.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement this day's sitting will be extended by eight minutes.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FEDERAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ACT, 1977

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-44, an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977, as reported (without amendment) from a legislative committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There are four motions on the Notice Paper in amendment to Bill C-44, an Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977.

Since there are identical motions on the Order Paper, I have consulted with the Hon. Members concerned and I am prepared to select the motions in the name of the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau).

Motion No. 2 will be debated and voted on separately.

Motion No. 4 seeks to permit the payment of \$175 million to the province in the first year rather than in the two-year period proposed in the Bill. This motion was moved and ruled out of order in the committee on the grounds that it infringes on the financial initiative of the Crown by adding an additional charge on the public treasury.

The Chair agrees with this decision but must, however, consider the fact that this motion is a straight deletion of