

Point of Order—Mr. Malone

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, at this time I rise on a point of order. I wonder if the minister could indicate whether he intends to make a statement later today with respect to the two reports he has just tabled and, second, when may we expect the tabling of the Peter Newcombe report?

Mr. Johnston: Madam Speaker, I do not intend to make a statement today with respect to the two reports I have tabled. I have indicated that I would make the report of Mr. Peter Newcombe available to spokesmen for the opposition parties. As yet I have not received a request for such copies and, as I also indicated in reply to a question, I believe last week, I would be prepared to consider tabling that report. But I think initially I would like to confer with my colleague, the hon. member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens).

Mr. Beatty: He has already asked you to do it.

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, to be abundantly clear on this question, I do not think it is right that the minister should suggest that there be a private disclosure of this report to certain members of this House without the report being tabled in the usual way for the consideration of all members. I would like formally to request that the minister table the report as initially promised when this commission was set up and that he do it at the first opportunity.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. MALONE—FAILURE OF CERTAIN MEMBERS TO RISE WHEN REQUESTED BY MADAM SPEAKER

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order relating to this question but with a different perspective from that just raised. My point of order relates to the fact that when the tabling took place under the name of Her Majesty's servant, Your Honour requested on both occasions, "Would hon. members please rise". In the first instance four members here to my left declined to rise. In the second three others very reluctantly did, while the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) continued to refuse to rise after that request.

While on the surface it may appear that I am raising a position which may seem to some to be petty, I submit that for most it was only a few short weeks ago that we took our oaths of office as members of Parliament. We swore allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, and we said that as members of Parliament and through the system we have we would recognize our obligation to our monarch under whom we serve and that we would be diligent to it.

When hon. members of their own party reminded them that they were supposed to rise, they shook their heads or moved their hands in a downward motion. In effect, what they were really doing was saying that, whatever their personal motives with respect to systems with which they may or may not agree, they were taking a position quite different from the oath they took just some short weeks ago.

All I am saying is that hon. members who cannot recognize the system in which they live or who find it unpalatable to live with it should at least have courtesy, recognize the dignity of this Parliament and force themselves to live with the system until there has been some change. I hope such change will not come about, but when they simply defy the tradition of this Parliament, I think that kind of behaviour should be noted and that it not be permitted in the future. They should not be allowed to sit in defiance of their oath in this Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Hon. members have surely heard the remarks made by one of their colleagues. They can make what they will of them. It is obviously an established custom in the House and the Chair has no authority whatsoever for enforcing it.

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MAIN ESTIMATES, 1980-81

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I tabled today the main estimates for 1980-81 providing for expenditures of some \$58.4 billion, an increase of 11.4 per cent over the main estimates for the previous year. I would like to point out, Madam Speaker, that these estimates were put together using the economic assumptions and policies of the previous government without any changes to reflect the policies this government is in the process of elaborating.

In view of the time necessary for a technical analysis of such a complex budget, it was not possible for the government to put together its own policies and programs without unduly delaying the tabling of the estimates. As hon. members rely on the main estimates to vote supplies, it seemed important to me that they should have them today so we can get on with our work as rapidly as possible. My colleague the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) has already described to the House the economic and financial context for our estimates. As the planning process takes place, certain items of the main estimates will have to be adjusted through supplementary estimates or appropriate legislative measures.

[English]

Madam Speaker, I should like to draw hon. members' attention to several specific cases in which future supplementary estimates will reflect changes in programs in these main estimates. As hon. members are aware, the government introduced legislation to increase the payments under the guaranteed income supplement provisions of the Old Age Security Act by \$35 a month per household. As the \$1.7 billion presently included in the main estimates for this program are based on the old rates, the forecast expenditures for the program will be increased to provide for the higher payments.