

Mr. PUGSLEY: The question raised is one of very great importance as affecting the procedure of the House, and it is one I am sure we would all like to have settled if possible, with a view to having a change made in the rules. I think the Minister of Finance is technically correct, that under Rule 17 (A) we cannot debate concurrence in the form in which it appears on the Order Paper.

It is clear, however, that we can debate the receiving of the report of the Committee of Supply, which is the same thing. But this is where the mistake is made: on the Order Paper the words should be not merely "Receiving report of Committee of Supply," but "Receiving and concurring in report of Committee of Supply." If the order is not entered on the Order Paper in that way, there is no item on the Order Paper for concurrence. Rule 40 requires that two days' notice shall be given for leave to present a Bill, resolution or address. This is a resolution, presented by the Minister of Finance, that the report of the Committee of Supply be concurred in. Except with the unanimous consent of the House, he cannot make that motion without giving two days' notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: This point has been under my consideration since the order was called, but unfortunately I have no precedent to guide me, inasmuch as the point of order has not been raised since the rule was passed in the year 1913. I am compelled, therefore, to give my own interpretation of the rule.

With respect to the point of order raised by the Minister of Finance, Rule 17 A provides that the following motions shall be debatable: (1) Motions heretofore debatable made upon routine proceedings (except adjournment motions); (2) and every motion standing on the order of the proceedings for the day; (3) for concurrence in a report of a standing or a special committee; (4) for the previous question; (5) for the third reading of a Bill; (6) for the adjournment of the House under Rule 39 for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance; (7) for the adoption in Committee of the Whole, or of Supply, or of Ways and Means, of the resolution, clause, section, preamble or title under consideration.

The motion now before the Chair is that the resolution be read the second time and concurred in. It does not come within any one of the motions which are debatable. I am therefore of the opinion that the point of order raised by the Minister of Finance

is well taken and that the motion is not properly debatable. I did not feel it advisable to raise the point myself without having given it very mature consideration.

With respect to the point of order raised by the member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) under the provisions of Rule 40, I am inclined to think that he is in error, inasmuch as the notice for receiving the report of the Committee of Supply has been on the Order Paper for many weeks. I think that that answers the requirement that notice shall be given.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The notice on the Order Paper is simply that the report of the committee be received. The motion that the report be concurred in is supposed to be moved by the Minister of Finance.

On the order being called:

Receiving the report of resolutions adopted by the Committee of Supply on July 14, 1917.

Mr. PUGSLEY: According to Your Honour's ruling, if we wish to debate any subject connected with these resolutions we must do so on the motion that the report be received. But we cannot tell what the report of the committee is until it is read; therefore I respectfully submit that the report should be read before the motion is put; that it be read the first time and concurred in.

Mr. SPEAKER: The items of the resolution are within the knowledge of hon. members; they are entered in the Votes and Proceedings. A copy of the resolution itself is available to any hon. gentleman who wishes to discuss the matter. It would not seem to me to be putting matters in their proper sequence to give the contents of the resolution before the motion is put. Does the hon. member desire that I should put the formal motion?

Mr. PUGSLEY: I do not want to press a technical point, but there are some items of Supply which I wish to discuss. There are a great many different resolutions, and unless I know which one is referred to I cannot very well discuss it upon the motion for receiving the report. Perhaps it would be satisfactory if I got a copy of the resolution; I could find it in the Votes and Proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless the hon. member has in mind some particular item that he wishes to discuss, I prefer that he should not now press me for a ruling on the point. It is my impression that there is no record since Confederation of a motion having been made in the House for