

*Point of Order*

approved through existing legislation and are included only for information purposes. This is from Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, Citation 484, page 169.

The reason for this is that the statutory obligations continue unchanged for the life of the Unemployment Insurance Act. They need not be confirmed year after year. In the 1989-90 fiscal year the federal government contributed almost \$3 billion to the unemployment insurance account. Parliament was not asked to approve these expenditures. Parliament was not asked to agree to spend funds for this purpose. Parliament gave its approval when the program was established and that approval is continuous.

When the estimates are approved by Parliament the resulting appropriation bill or supply bill, as it is also called, is introduced. It does not contain the statutory expenditures. Citation 509(1) of Beauchesne's at page 173 states:

The concurrence by the House of the Estimates is an Order of the House to bring in a bill, known as the Appropriation Bill—

Consequently, Parliament is not asked to approve annually either directly or indirectly these statutory expenditures or for that matter other statutory expenditures such as family allowances or old age security payments. Parliament is, however, asked to approve non-statutory expenditures such as the operating budgets of departments, including the operating budget of the Department of Employment and Immigration.

As I just mentioned, Mr. Speaker, it does so by first agreeing to the appropriation vote in the Estimates. This is what is commonly referred to as granting supply, in other words agreeing to the government's plan of how it intends to spend money.

Parliament then passes an appropriation bill which makes good the supply. It sounds like a very reasonable, well understood system. By approving the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, Parliament is accomplishing its duty. Without an appropriation bill the government would have its spending plan approved but no money to put it into effect.

**Mr. Baker:** Right on.

**Mr. Gauthier:** It is these non-statutory expenditures which Parliament approves, which include votes on the Estimates and the appropriation bill, that constitute aids and supply. I just referred to the definition of that. I can

repeat it again if the minister wants to hear it. I see he has left the House, Mr. Speaker. I guess he does not have an interest in this matter and he just wants to go out—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is an experienced and leading member of this place and knows that whether a minister left, or whether a minister stayed, or whether one of his colleagues went, or whether he stayed is not an appropriate comment. I want him to continue to address, as he is quite capable of doing of course, the exact points that I have to decide.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I accept again, Mr. Speaker, but in a debate you would expect the other person to be there when you are speaking and I would like to make that point, very clear. I say this in all kindness. I do not want to—

**Mr. Epp:** What kindness?

**Mr. Gauthier:** From the bottom of my heart where it should be on the left side of centre.

**Mr. Speaker:** It may be from the bottom of the heart but how deep down did you dig?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** I would point out to the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier that the parliamentary secretary is here and I am sure that he is listening carefully to the learned remarks of our friend.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that and I like that person very much.

**Mr. Cooper:** Thanks. You just got my pay cut!

**Mr. Gauthier:** As I was saying, it is these non-statutory expenditures which Parliament approves through its vote on the estimates and the appropriation bill that constitutes aids and supplies.

The government requests, of course, the aid of Parliament in meeting its day-to-day operating expenses, and Parliament usually agrees to supply the necessary funds. In fact when an appropriation bill is passed by the House of Commons and Senate, the Speaker of the House of Commons addresses in the Senate Chamber the hon. the Deputy of the Governor General at the time of Royal Assent as follows:

May it please Your Honour, the Commons of Canada have voted certain supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the Public Service.