statement on financial and economic affairs this week? This would afford an opportunity to the House of Commons to express an opinion on the financial policies of this government which otherwise will not occur in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Churchill: The proposal made at noon today would give every opportunity to the Minister of Finance to make a complete statement regarding economic conditions in Canada.

Mr. Chevrier: I do not know if I made myself clear. The standing order is 58. I think that would meet also the position which was under discussion this morning. Otherwise—and the leader of the house will correct me if I am wrong—no opportunity will occur in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Knowles: As Your Honour recalls, there was some discussion about the matter this morning, and it was agreed that representatives of the parties would see each other. We did not have lunch together; but as a result of the information communicated to us when we did get together I must on behalf of this group protest very strongly against the proposal which the leader of the house has now made.

Standing order 58 is one which can be used in the way the minister proposes; but knowing the history of this standing order, having been on the committee when it was revised, may I venture to say that, looking at it, it is clear that the intention is that when a minister of the crown is to make a budget presentation he does so with the Speaker in the chair on a motion to go into committee of ways and means. That is what is spelled out in Beauchesne, fourth edition, citation 267, which says:

> It is usual to make the budget speech on the motion for the house to go into committee of ways and means, but finance ministers have at times found it convenient to make it on the motion for committee of supply.

Nowhere in the authorities is there any suggestion that it is appropriate to have it in committee of ways and means. I observe that Your Honour is getting to the edge of your chair and I will therefore say no more at this time except that we register the strongest protest. We think the proposed course is unfair to the rights of parliament, and if it is proceeded with on Monday we shall protest at that time.

Mr. Speaker: The business of the house is a matter for the house leader. Since there is no motion before the Chair, I do not think we can conduct a debate on the propriety, one way or another, of a particular motion. I do not think we are going to solve the problem at this time. The argument which in part the hon. member was advancing at this time would have been germane at the time of the making of the motion. I am hoping that other members will not join in a similar type of argument at this time.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I put a question to the house leader because it is pertinent to the discussion which will take place on Monday. I hope he has had an opportunity of looking at standing order 58 and I hope he is in a position to tell us whether he will proceed under that order.

Mr. Churchill: I just wish to say two things. The first is that the suggestions put forward by the hon. member for Laurier will receive careful consideration. I always pay attention to his suggestions.

The weakness of the position taken by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is that with regard to this procedure he has offered criticism to which there is no right of reply at this stage. If on the announcement of the business of the house hon. members are going to offer criticism and record their views in *Hansard,* which is subsequently made available across the country, I think a right of reply surely should be available to the government side.

Mr. Speaker: It is for that reason that I rose to bring that discussion to a quick halt.

It being five minutes after six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.