

been discussed on the budget might be expected to be discussed on the estimates. You placed on *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker, without discussion, a long written statement purporting to deal with the point which I took up in the debate on the budget. The hon. minister who was in charge of the house, putting through his estimates, permitted you, in the course of two or three minutes, to sandwich in your estimates among the estimates of the Minister of Mines and Resources while I was absent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the rules of the house will not permit me to charge that you or your officials or anyone else had a deliberate plan of frustrating the private members of this house—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. McLEAN (Simcoe East): I say the rules of the house will not permit me to do that. But, Mr. Speaker, if a deliberate plan had been made to do such a thing it could not have been executed in a better manner than was done. I want to tell you and I want to tell the minister who is in charge of the house that if anyone, any official, or any cabinet minister, thinks that any private member is going to be frustrated in the work which he thinks is his duty to the taxpayers of this country they are making a serious mistake in their judgment of the temper of members of this house.

Mr. POULIOT: Is this a point of order or a question of privilege? I would have something to say if it is a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a question of privilege.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): First may I say that I believe there are few, if any, hon. members of this house who are more faithful in their attendance than the hon. member who has just spoken (Mr. McLean). I can assure him that as far as members on this side of the house, and indeed hon. members of the house generally, are concerned I do not think any of them would wish to be a party to any plan which would deprive him of any right to discuss at the right time whatever matter he may wish to discuss.

What the hon. member has said about the Prime Minister taking charge of estimates relating to the House of Commons is true to the extent that such a procedure is usually followed if the Prime Minister happens to be leading the house at the time. But it is not an invariable rule that the Prime Minister takes charge of the estimates relating to the

house. It is done by whoever is leading the house at the time. On occasions, His Honour the Speaker has himself explained the House of Commons estimates.

I am quite sure that my colleague, the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar), who was leading the house at the time, had no plan in his mind of usurping any hon. member's right to speak, and I am sure that His Honour the Speaker would be the last person who would be a party to such a plan or to countenance it; and as to there being agreement between the two for such a purpose, I cannot imagine it. However, may I say to my hon. friend that if he has a matter he wishes to discuss which relates to economy it might appropriately be discussed on the estimates of the Minister of Finance, whose estimates will be the first in order to-day.

Mr. McLEAN (Simcoe East): In answer to the Prime Minister I might say that my grievance is not so much that there are things I wanted to discuss that were not discussed. It was not my intention to discuss these matters at any length. My complaint is not that at all. My complaint is the manner in which this was carried out; and hon. members who are here and other private members who intended to speak on these things feel exactly as I do. It is all right for the Prime Minister to excuse those who were in charge last night, but we saw what happened; and I want to tell the Prime Minister that in spite of what is said by anybody, what was done was clear as day. And that sort of thing is not going to be put over on private members of this house if I can stop it.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): Since I have been brought into the discussion by the hon. member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) I might offer this word of explanation. I was not aware that the hon. member had any special interest in discussing Mr. Speaker's estimates, or any other estimates, any more than any other hon. member of the house. When the Minister of Finance completed his income tax bill last night there were several of my colleagues who wished to get into supply. The Minister of Labour had spoken to me, and the Secretary of State. But I had my own estimates partly completed and intended going ahead with them when the Minister of Finance had completed his income tax bill. It was suggested then that Mr. Speaker's estimates might be taken up at that time—

Mr. McLEAN (Simcoe East): Mr. Speaker's estimates might be taken up at what time?