

Speaker shall leave"—"shall leave"; this is mandatory, peremptory on the Chair—"the Chair without question put". There is then the proviso about the Budget Presentation.

I would draw to the attention of honourable Members the fact that on a Budget Presentation there is a motion made by the Minister of Finance "That the Speaker do now leave the Chair". No such motion is before this House. Further, I would submit to honourable Members that Mr. Speaker has no authority to compel any member of the government to propose a motion. If the Minister of Finance does not propose the motion, "That the Speaker do now leave the Chair", nor do any of his colleagues, then we are not into what I can only term a Budget Presentation, because while honourable Members on all sides of the House might have their own opinion as to what may be coming, the Chair cannot anticipate what is coming. Therefore, I cannot rule that there is to follow a Budget Presentation.

In the light of that, therefore, I rule that the first portion of Standing Order 58 will apply and I have no alternative but to leave the Chair; and that is what I propose to do.

Accordingly, the House resolved itself again into Committee of Ways and Means;

And the House continuing in Committee;

At 5.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker took the Chair.

[*Private Members' Business was called pursuant to Standing Order 15(3)*]

(*Notices of Motions*)

Item No. 3 having been called for the first time was allowed to stand at the request of the government.

Mr. Stefanson, seconded by Mr. Forbes, moved,—That the government should consider the expediency of amending the Canada Elections Act to provide for the establishment of a permanent list of electors, with biannual revisions thereof, as now exists for instance in the United Kingdom and in Australia, in lieu of the present method of preparing and revising lists of electors at each general election, so as to permit shortening the period of time between the issue of the writs of elections and the date the said writs are made returnable.—(*Notice of Motion No. 4*).

And debate arising thereon;

The hour for Private Members' Business expired.

The Committee of Ways and Means resumed, and progress having been made and reported, the Committee obtained leave to sit again later this day.