

*Supply—Justice*

second session of this twenty seventh parliament. I hope the house will forgive me for reading paragraph 5(c) again; the hon. member for Carleton I know read it a few moments ago:—

Subject to the conditions specified below there shall be an overall limitation of thirty-eight days allotted to the business of supply during the session. For the purposes of this order the business of supply shall consist of supply motions; main estimates; interim supply with the exceptions noted below; supplementary and additional estimates with the exception noted below; and supply bills based on the foregoing.

I submit that this is the order that says—subject to what I shall say in a moment—that when the 38 days are over all the things set out in that paragraph must be done.

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** It must say so, surely.

• (10:50 p.m.)

**Mr. Knowles:** Now, Mr. Speaker, that provision was modified by this house in the special order which it passed unanimously on June 26 when it said, in paragraph 4, that the operation of paragraph 3 should not in any way preclude the adoption of all items in the committee of supply and the enactment of supply bills passed thereon within the 30-day period prescribed in the resolution adopted on April 26, 1967. I mention this because there is a reference to 30 days provided in the earlier order. How did 38 become 30? The reason is that in the meantime we had had two days on a supply motion, and we provided on June 26 that we would have the other six days at certain specified times in the fall. The combination of these things, however labyrinthine they may appear, means that we end with an order which says we must complete the business of supply, that is the estimates and the bills based thereon, in 30 days.

The hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell) agrees that we have had 30 days; they ended at ten o'clock tonight. Are we not, therefore, bound by an order made unanimously by the house which says that at the end of 30 days of supply, in view of what is provided in 5(c) of the order of April 26, 1967, we are bound to finish all these things including the supply bills?

I would be the first to admit that the order could be written a lot more clearly and I hope our committee will straighten this matter out. I admit there is an argument about the 30 days, but no one denies we are under an order this session to complete the work of supply in 30 days.

[Mr. Knowles.]

**Mr. Churchill:** It says 38.

**Mr. Knowles:** Shall I go back and go over that ground again for the benefit of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill)? My hon. friend behind me wants me to dispense.

**Mr. Churchill:** Will the hon. member read out the section which says 30 days?

**Mr. Knowles:** The special order of June 26 in paragraph 4 makes a reference to the 30 days provided for supply. It makes this reference to 30 days in a paragraph which actually speaks of 38. What happened to the other eight days? Two of them had already been used and the other six are provided for in paragraph three of the resolution of June 26.

As I say, it would be hard to make things more complicated, but if one takes time and patience to look at it, it is all here. We have agreed by unanimous decision of the house that we were to have 30 days on supply this session and four supply motions of two days each. We had one of these motions before the summer recess. We have had another two of them already. We are to get the last within 45 days after we came back following the summer recess. So I submit the 30 day limit is there. The hon. member for Carleton does not argue about this. All he says is that there is no provision for sitting late to do it tonight. So, if there is an over-all limitation of 30 days on the supply resolutions and the bills based thereon, it seems to me we should deal with them during those 30 days, and that means dealing with them tonight.

I am afraid that I do not see this as a major parliamentary issue. If the hon. member for Carleton wins his point, all that happens is that we will take these formal votes on the resolutions and on the supply bill tomorrow or some other day. He, or no one else would argue that there is room for any more debate. I am not just relying on common sense, Mr. Speaker. You do not get very far in this house by arguing on the basis of common sense. It seems to me that the putting together of these various rules and orders does result in the clear indication that we are supposed to do all of this work, including the supply bills—I emphasize that to the hon. member for Carleton—within 30 days. Unless we do it tonight we will not have complied with our own order adopted unanimously by the house.