

estimates of departments in detail, but from the point of view of having some basic, independent research facility that can examine these matters. I am sure the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras) does not go anywhere in this country and say that the system is adequate. Knowing him as I do, I am sure he would be much happier with the assistance of that kind of informed parliament. I think it would be a help to the government, to parliament and to the people of Canada.

We have a challenger ahead of us at some stage. We cannot deal with it now, but I think this is a complaint of grievance which I would like to put before you on behalf of members on all sides of the House.

Hon. Martin O'Connell (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to share in this expression of concern about the means at our disposal for the control of expenditures. I think it is a part of a general concern that has arisen over the complexity of legislation, the growth of the regulatory process, the growth and difficulty of managing expenditures. Along with the hon. member, I have suggested on other occasions that we need a different kind of approach from that provided in the standing committees. I think we need an expenditures committee that can take a four or five year view, that can assess expenditures as they accrue over the years and find better ways of managing them and perhaps better ways for government management.

Point of Order

I do not think we can presently do this in depth or in a way satisfactory to us as the institution that controls government ultimately. It comes right back to expenditures. I want to say I share the expression of concern raised by the hon. member and hope that the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras) and his colleagues will give very serious thought to the concern we all feel, regardless of where we sit in this House.

● (2202)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The concerns expressed by the two hon. members are well noted. Of course, the House notes with some encouragement that recently we circulated the supply bill earlier in the day on the last day on which it is to be voted. All day today the House took under consideration the supply bill. This is certainly a step forward in terms of our procedures and avoids the unseemly last minute decision aspect of the procedure we have been following of late.

However, it still leaves room for the concern which has been expressed in terms of the ability of parliament adequately to examine supply. I do not think the situation is as a result of ill-will on the part of any member or party in the House of Commons. It seems to be more a result of the constraints of time that we face. I am sure this will be the subject on ongoing attention on all sides of the House.

It being ten o'clock this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m. pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 10.02 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.