

*Point of Order*

Mr. Speaker, I now want to touch on—I could deal with it at length, but I will let my colleagues in this House do so. I will let them go into each of the proposed amendments and how they have been handled by the government.

[English]

I would like to use some arguments that the minister has given us today in this House and at other times, concerning Bill C-21. The minister claimed that Senate amendments to Bill C-21 violated Standing Order 80(1).

**An Hon. Member:** The House didn't agree.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I did not say that the House didn't agree. I said the Senate is not bound by it. You should listen, Mr. Minister, to what I am saying. I will repeat it again for the minister, because I think he missed the point. I repeat Standing Order 80(1).

All aids and supplies granted to the Sovereign by the Parliament of Canada are the sole gift of the House of Commons, and all bills for granting such aids and supplies ought to begin with the House, as it is the undoubted right of the House to direct, limit, and appoint in all such bills, the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants, which are not alterable by the Senate.

Standing Order 80 (1), is a unilateral declaration by this House of Commons which has absolutely, as I said earlier in my remarks, no effect on the Senate. The Senate has never accepted, does not have to accept, does not have to deal with Standing Order 80 (1). It does not have to accept the proposition that this Standing Order limits the authority or powers in any way.

Furthermore, Standing Order 80 (1) has absolutely no relevance to the matter at hand since Bill C-21, has nothing whatsoever to do with aids and supplies as I just finished explaining. The term "aids and supplies" refers to the process whereby the government presents and then has approved by the House of Commons its estimates. God knows the Tories have had a large majority so they get their way all the time, and they should not be unhappy about that, but they seem to take it out on us all the time. I want to tell them that aids and supplies, in our interpretation, means aids and supplies, and refers to the process whereby the government presents and then has approved by the House of Com-

mons its estimates which then form part of the appropriation bill.

I do not have to remind the House that last Friday this government pulled the rug out from under its own feet on supply, moved quorum on debate on an opposition day, and lost the procedure for supply in this House.

I would like to have before me the article written by Marjorie Nichols. I think it would be worth reading into the record to make the point. We thought it was a rather dumb thing to do.

**Mr. Andre:** Not as dumb as you, Gauthier.

**Mr. Milliken:** It was a waste of authority as well.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask hon. members to keep in mind the Speaker's comment a little earlier. These are complicated matters. There will be other matters of debate. Whatever was in one article or in another is not something that helps me answer the question that is being posed.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I needed a rest from standing like this. I needed to sit down—he's always been a sucker for a left anyway.

In the 1989-1990 Estimates, Part II, page 62, there is summary of expenditures of the Department of Employment and Immigration. The summary shows which expenditures must be approved by Parliament. Under the sub-heading "Employment and Insurance Program", approval for operating expenditures was requested under Vote 5, and approval for grants and contributions was requested under Vote 10. But four items including the government's contribution to the unemployment insurance account in the amount of \$2.660 billion, and government contributions in respect to fishermen's benefits in the amount of \$286 million, required no vote. These are statutory expenditures and were included in the Estimates for information purposes only.

• (1550)

I think I should remind the House that the purpose of estimates is to present to Parliament the budgetary and non-budgetary expenditure proposals of the government for the next fiscal year. These estimates include votes, which Parliament is asked to approve through appropriation acts, as well as other items called statutory items, for which the required expenditures have already been