

a new practice and is supported by precedence. But that is not the case.

Since the adoption of the new rules, it seems there has been only one item with direct and specific legislative import that has been included in the estimates. That particular item, included in the estimates for the year 1970-71, was allowed to go unchallenged and no point of order was raised in respect thereto. Thus, no practice has yet been established except perhaps that particular items proposing to amend directly and specifically a statute, had not been included in supplementary estimates since the rules were changed in 1968 but for the one exception just mentioned. The House therefore has not had the opportunity at this point to re-affirm the proposition that such proposals, when they are clearly intended to amend existing legislation, should come to the House by way of an amending bill rather than as an item in the supplementary estimates.

I am not unaware of the possible delay in the adoption of the veterans legislation covered by items 35c and 10c by having the proposed amendments introduced by way of a bill. However, there is a long established practice in the House that veterans legislation is dealt with expeditiously on a non-partisan basis and it may well be that House leaders will want to agree to a timetable which will prevent any delay in the adoption of such measures. I would therefore suggest to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) that his motion amended to take into account this ruling, would be put in the following terms: "That the Supplementary Estimates (C) tabled in the House on March 4, 1971, with the exception of those items relating to Veterans Affairs be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates and that Veterans Affairs items 15c, 40c, 45c and 50c be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs."

I make this suggestion at this time to the President of the Privy Council. I hope he will find it possible to allow the Chair to put the motion in the terms I have just suggested.

Pursuant to Standing Order 59, on motion of Mr. MacEachen, seconded by Mr. Drury, it was ordered,—That the Supplementary Estimates (C) tabled in the House on March 4, 1971, with the exception of those items relating to Veterans Affairs be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates and that Veterans Affairs items 15c, 40c, 45c and 50c be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Mackasey, seconded by Mr. MacEachen, by leave of the House, introduced Bill C-229, An Act respecting unemployment insurance in Canada, which was read the first time and ordered to be printed and ordered for a second reading at the next sitting of the House.

The text of the Message and recommendation of the Governor General printed pursuant to Standing Order 62(2) in relation to the foregoing Bill is as follows:

His Excellency the Governor General recommends to the House of Commons a measure respecting unemployment insurance and to repeal the existing legislation; to define and, by regulation, to extend insurable employment; to continue the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the salaries and tenure of the commissioners and to provide for the establishment of offices and the employment of technical or professional staff; to provide for the appointment from time to time of agents and the location of temporary staff and services and to open information offices; to provide for unemployment insurance benefits, eligibility for benefits, benefit periods and their extension, rate of benefits, special severance benefits, national and regionally extended benefits and, for benefits to be paid in advance; to provide for the deduction and payment of premiums and for refunds in the event of an overpayment; to provide for a claimant assistance program; to continue boards of referees and to provide for their remuneration, travelling, subsistence and other allowances; to continue the advisory committees and to provide for the remuneration and travelling allowances of its members and for professional, technical, secretarial and other assistance to the committee; to establish an Unemployment Insurance Account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund; to provide that all amounts paid as or on account of benefits under the Act, all amounts of refunds of overpaid premiums and the costs of administration of the Act shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and charged to the Unemployment Insurance Account; to provide for the payment out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of interest on the balances in the Unemployment Insurance Account; to provide that in each fiscal year of the Government of Canada commencing with the fiscal year of 1973-74, there shall be charged to the Consolidated Revenue Fund an amount equal to the government cost of paying benefits for the immediately preceding calendar year; to provide for advances out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Unemployment Insurance Account for the payment of benefits and costs of administration where the amount in the Account is not sufficient to meet payments required to be made in the operation of the Act, of a total amount outstanding at any time not in excess of eight hundred million dollars; and to provide further for provisions in connection with the administration of the Act.

Pursuant to Standing Order 39(4), the following Question was made an Order of the House for Return:

No. 749—*Mr. Caouette*

1. Are interest-free loans made by the federal government to foreign countries and, if so, for what purpose?
2. What is the policy of the government concerning such loans?