

*War Appropriation—Army*

deficiency and was unfit for service. His injuries to his ankle and shoulder were not mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member will allow me to interrupt, we are now discussing item No. 3, dealing with travel, transportation and freight, and I must absolutely abide by section 2 of standing order 58, which states:

Speeches in committee of the whole house must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

Surely the hon. member must realize that he and all the other members of the committee have been given a great deal of latitude so far, but there comes a time when a line of demarcation must be drawn. This is the time, and I am now going to abide by the rule I have just read.

Mr. POULIOT: Item No. 2 was passed last night under certain conditions; at page 3118 of *Hansard* the minister said:

I would say that no one will be shut out by reason of having allowed this item to carry. No one will be shut out from receiving an answer to such questions. As a matter of fact, I have made notes of the questions asked.

I understood I could go on with these matters to-day, otherwise I would have objected to the item passing last night. I was right here when the statement was made, and that was my very clear understanding. However, if that is not the case I will not insist upon dealing with this matter; I will not impose upon the committee. Yesterday a sort of committee was formed behind the curtains; some members went out while I was speaking, so that there was hardly a quorum left; they were all behind the curtain, but two minutes later there were more than fifty members in the house. I want to know if a joke was played on the committee last night when item No. 2 was passed. If that is so I shall not insist; I will take my medicine all right, but I will remember what happened on other occasions. I want to know if I can go on now, after what was said by the minister last night.

Mr. RALSTON: I think my hon. friend is wrong in his construction of the reservation. That reservation was made in answer to a question by the leader of the opposition, who referred to certain questions which had been put during the course of the debate, to which answers had not been brought down. The hon. gentleman referred particularly to questions asked by members of his party. At page 3118 of *Hansard* he said:

A number of questions were asked by some hon. members in this party during the afternoon

[Mr. Pouliot.]

and evening sittings, and if the item is to carry it should be with the reservation that the minister will answer the questions asked.

Then I said:

I will, as fully as I can.

Mr. Graydon: I should have said that they were asked not only this afternoon and last night, but during other parts of the debate. I should like to have them answered.

Mr. Ralston: I would say that no one will be shut out by reason of having allowed this item to carry. No one will be shut out from receiving an answer to such questions. As a matter of fact I have made notes of the questions asked.

Then the time was agreed to. I say to my hon. friend that I do not think that reservation carries him far in connection with his contention. But I must say something further. I do feel responsible in connection with this matter, because at five minutes to eleven I interrupted the hon. member for Témiscouata when he was dealing with medical matters, and asked that I might place on record some information with regard to the man who had been referred to earlier by the hon. member for New Westminster. At that time, at page 3116 of *Hansard*, I said:

I want to ask my hon. friend if he would mind dealing with this matter when we go on to-morrow.

On that understanding the hon. member for Témiscouata yielded, and so far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, I feel that I am bound not to take any objection to-day. I rather think it was the understanding of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: On that understanding I do not see how I can apply the rule, and my ruling cannot apply.

Mr. McIVOR: Might I have a word?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Témiscouata has the floor.

Mr. POULIOT: I have no objection to the hon. member saying what he wishes to say.

Mr. McIVOR: I think the hon. member for Témiscouata understands now that we would like him to be brief in his remarks. He can be very pointed and very intelligent; now we would like him to be very brief, because the temper of the committee is not in favour of any more long speeches from that source.

Mr. POULIOT: I thank my hon. friend for his kind words, to which I am not accustomed, but I would suggest that he should address the Chair while we are in committee. I say, however, that even if there were no such reservation—and I thank the minister for what he has said—I would be strictly in order under