

Mr. Drury thereupon moved that Bill C-204, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1974, be read the second time and referred to committee of the whole.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried on division.

Mr. Nielsen: It might be of some assistance, Sir, if I could make a suggestion to the House in order to expedite matters. We are prepared to pass all three stages of the bill on a voice division, subject to the item on page 24, the schedule, under the Department of the Solicitor General dealing with the vote we just disposed of on the motion of the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury).

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. McCleave in the chair.

The Chairman: Shall clause 2 carry?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Chairman: Shall clause 3 carry?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (2300)

The Chairman: Is the hon. member for Edmonton East rising on a point of order?

Mr. Skoreyko: I am not rising on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said "no" to clause 2 of the bill. What concerns me primarily is that it was passed without you hearing my voice, Mr. Chairman. How can we in this House stand here—

The Chairman: Order, please. I will put the clause again. Those in favour of clause 2 will please stand.

Clause 2 agreed to: Yeas, 127; nays, 1.

The Chairman: May I ask the co-operation of members of the committee. When the vote was called, one member left after casting his vote and another member came in. I would remind hon. members that this is against our customs and practices. Shall clause 3 carry?

Mr. Nielsen: On division.

The Chairman: Is the hon. member for Ottawa West asking for a vote.

Mr. Reilly: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am.

Clause 3 agreed to: Yeas, 126; nays, 2.

The Chairman: The discussion is on clause 4.

Estimates

Mr. Nielsen: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that the Chair now call subclause (2) of clause 3. It is normal practice to call them clause by clause, and since subclause (2) deals with the schedule in which is included an item which we on this side want to vote against, namely, the estimates of the Solicitor General's department, you might want to give that some thought.

The Chairman: The Chair is in the hands of the committee and will be guided by what the committee requests. There is a request by the hon. member. I would have put it had it been presented to me. However, I did put clause 3 without breaking it down into subclauses (1) and (2). I am trying to be fair and direct, but I cannot be direct after the event, with great respect to the hon. member. Is the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East rising on a point of order?

Mr. Forrestal: Mr. Chairman, I wish to point out to you that the purpose of my rising is to vote against the subclause. I think the normal procedure is to call these clauses item by item. I had some fear that you were not going to call the item that had to do with the Treasury Board, and that prompted my rising in opposition to the vote.

The Chairman: With regard to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East, I think the Chair can best help by pointing out that Standing Order 58(10) provides as follows:

On the last allotted day in each period, but, in any case, not later than the last sitting day in each period, at fifteen minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings then in progress and, if those proceedings are not in relation to a no-confidence motion, he shall put forthwith successively, without debate or amendment, every question necessary to dispose of any item of business relating to interim supply, main estimates, and supplementary or final estimates, the restoration or reinstatement of any item in the estimates or any opposed item in the estimates, and for the passage at all stages of any bill or bills based thereon.

The Chair is in exactly the same position, no better and no worse, than the members of the committee. I have the rule book in front of me. It was the wish of hon. members at one time that this be the procedure by which we govern the consideration and passage of estimates in our chamber, and I have to be the servant of that decision.

● (2310)

The Chairman: The question is on clause 4. Shall clause 4 carry?

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

The Chairman: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the President of the Treasury Board, through you, whether clause 4 is in precisely the usual form?

Mr. Drury: The answer is yes, Mr. Chairman, it is in the form of previous years.

The Chairman: Shall clause 4 carry?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.