

Interim Supply

Mr. Jones: Mr. Chairman, I have something really serious that I want to bring up at this stage. It is a question of privilege and a point of order too. You have ruled, and I suggest we follow your ruling, but I do not belong to the committees and I do not have the right to vote in this committee.

An hon. Member: You are a member of this committee.

Mr. Jones: You will have an opportunity to speak when I am through. I do not have the right to speak in debate at this particular committee yet the President of the Treasury Board suggests I go to a committee on which I will not have an opportunity to vote. I do not think that is fair. If that is the procedure which has been adopted by this House, that procedure is incorrect and should be changed.

The Chairman: Order, please. I think the hon. member might have had a valid point of order if he had raised it when Mr. Speaker was in the chair. At present we are in the Committee of the Whole House. I am chairman of the committee. The hon. member's grievance is not related to the workings of this committee. The hon. member has always received the attention and help of the Chair and I am sure, if he were to raise his point of order when Mr. Speaker is in the chair, that he would receive the full co-operation of Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Chairman, earlier I raised a point of order. I wanted the President of the Treasury Board to indicate the urgency for passing the eleven twelfths item to which I referred, bearing in mind that \$150 million is at stake. I think the President of the Treasury Board was willing to answer.

The Chairman: Order, please. If I allow the question and allow the answer we shall be engaging in debate, which I do not have the authority to allow at this stage. It is my duty to put all questions necessary to the committee. The committee is to decide on them forthwith, so that the bill can be reported in the House.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Chairman, I am rising, not on a point of order, but simply to ask the President of the Treasury Board a straight question. I ask, is that sum for the public service only?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid the rules do not allow me to answer.

Mr. Woolliams: They are Liberal rules, forced on us by closure.

Mr. Breau: You accepted them in December, 1968.

Mr. Woolliams: I did not accept them.

The Chairman: Order, please.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Order, please. Is the hon. member for Bellechasse rising on a point of order?

[*The Chairman.*]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: The hon. member for Bellechasse on a point of order.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Since most hon. members are dissatisfied with this procedure, and nevertheless—

An hon. Member: Come to the committee.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Let me speak first, you can speak after me. My dear friend will speak after me. The Chair has just explained that according to the rules, no debate or amendment are to be allowed. But, we are certainly not a bunch of morons. We are being requested to vote estimates amounting to \$4 billion. We are being told: "Vote now, and ask for explanations later". That is, in short, what it amounts to.

Therefore, since just about everybody seems to be satisfied with this procedure, could we not agree—

Mr. Leblanc (Laurier): The hon. member should do like us and attend the sittings of the committee.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Dear me, the members are so displeasing this evening. It is not because the government members have obtained the consent of the official opposition on a sensible motion which we introduced that they should be so displeasing, for God's sake.

Mr. Leblanc (Laurier): If you do not attend the sittings—

The Chairman: Order. I would invite the hon. member to complete his point of order as soon as possible. I also ask for the co-operation of the other members who want to help the Chair, but who are not doing anything to help us progress quickly. The hon. member for Bellechasse.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your assistance. My point of order was quite serious and still is. Nevertheless, the hon. member for Laurier is teasing us when he says: "Come to the committee, if you want to know what is going on."

Mr. Chairman, we are united and we know what is going on, but they want to make us believe that we do not. We know what goes on. In all seriousness, I should like to ask the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) whether, with regard to Annex E, we might have some information concerning the Food Prices Review Board: does the amount provided cover operating expenditures of the board or does it also provide for the extended mandate it will be given?

The Chairman: Order. I appreciate the point raised by the hon. member. Still, the hon. member must understand that his inquiry to the President of the Treasury Board is not in order. He must address it to the committee of the whole. If he wants this information, and to break the rule imposed to the committee by the House itself, he will have to get the unanimous consent of the committee. Is there unanimous consent to allow the hon. member a question?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.