

I was interested in the comments made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain. I take his comments and thank him for the compliment he has given to us. I think all Hon. Members felt that this move was one which had to be taken in the House of Commons in order to allow Members of Parliament, and not only Members of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada, who are part of the Government, to be involved in the internal economy of the House of Commons.

Indeed, I recall very vividly the rather dramatic point of order raised—my first challenge—by the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East who interrupted the very benign proceedings which usually take place here on the opening day of Parliament with the election of the Speaker. He thrashed away at the Prime Minister because of the fact he had appointed the usual Commissioners of Internal Economy by the usual motion. I had to point out to the Hon. Member at that time that we just did not have quite the time to change the Act, that it was only the first day. However, I am glad to say that before we adjourn this summer we are able to do that.

With respect to the observation of the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier concerning the review of the operation, there are two courses of action we could have taken. I had originally suggested that we have this on a one-year trial basis to coincide with the Standing Orders which will be used provisionally for a period of one year. At the request of the Hon. Member's House Leader, I was quite prepared to have this review of the legislation not terminate but will carry on.

The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap speaks day in and day out and here it is my chance to speak and he is making a gesture that he wants to go to the Senate. I don't understand this.

I conclude only by saying, Sir, that, yes, this is only a provision for review. We want to have the matter of the operation of the Board of Internal Economy reviewed by an appropriate committee. I would hope, along with the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain, that the Board of Internal Economy would operate not only on a non-partisan basis but I would hope it will be able to operate on a consensus basis, that it would not be necessary to have a division on questions put to the committee. I would hope that there would be a discussion and a give and take which I think would benefit the operation of this House. It is going to require the co-operation of all Hon. Members in the spirit of collegiality on that particular board because I believe the people who will be on that board will represent their caucuses and the members within their caucuses. I think the people, therefore, will be people who love the House of Commons and understand it as an important institution. These responsibilities will make it easy to avoid becoming involved in partisanship.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, in his comments, the President of the Privy Council said that the Clerk was to be authorized to reprint the Standing Orders. As he knows, since 1983 we in this House have been working out of a 1982 edition with some glued-on pages. I wonder if the President of the Privy Council could, through his good offices, ask the Clerk if

we could have these printed before we come back on September 9, that is, sometime in August.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Chairman, I have just two or three questions. Can the President of the Privy Council tell us when the new composition comes into effect?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: September 9, 1985, Mr. Chairman, on the day that the House will reconvene for the next session.

Mr. Hawkes: Thank you. As I work through the Budget in part, and having just read the changes to the Standing Orders where legislative committees or standing committees must submit budgets, I could not see the tie-in as to how those budgets would end up in Treasury Board hands and have money voted by Parliament. It talks about staff control by the Clerk. It talks about staff control by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Where is the mechanism which takes the committee budget and puts it through the hand of the Treasury Board Minister and gets voted by Parliament?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Chairman, I have a brief answer which I hope will be sufficient for the Hon. Member. We are moving and have been moving under this Government to have more accountability with respect to the expenses of committees. The Hon. Member will know that the Speaker has written to all chair persons of standing committees requesting that they submit to him and, thereby, to the present Commissioners of Internal Economy, their budgets with respect to extraordinary expenses.

Under the new regime, the new Board of Internal Economy will, in fact, review all committee expenses and I believe they will be putting in place a system under which the committees will have allocated to them certain basic start-up funds. Then the committees will be expected to outline to the new Board of Internal Economy their requirements for their activities.

● (2240)

It will be up to the board to decide on each of these budgets and there will be an obligation on the part of the committee concerned and on the chairperson in particular. When you look at some of the other recommendations of the third report the logical conclusion is carried through. We want to start now on accountability and make sure that people are getting value for money and there is some control over the expenditures in committee. The Hon. Member will know there has been some very substantial bills run up by certain committees, albeit quite inadvertently and with the best intentions. We want to have some control and give leadership through the accountability concept over the operation of our own affairs.

The Hon. Member will undoubtedly have read the third report and will understand that if the provisions regarding the