I feel the time has come for us, if we are urged to act in a correct and different way, to find new solutions. As for us, Madam Speaker, we have often suggested financing formulas that would solve the problem. But the government refuses to try them out, while having a good time preserving outdated solutions and unusable systems. As a result people are slipping further and further into debt and even find that funny. From 1967 to 1974, Canada's debt has increased by $25 billion, and everyone finds that funny. The government takes an ever larger slice, especially in personal income tax, and we think that these people are going to bless us for it. Come on! This is no way to obtain the support of the population to maintain a system that should deserve to be maintained. I sincerely wish to be understood, but provided the system be one that serves the population, not a system to which the population has to be subservient. Therein lies all the difference!

These are the few comments I wished to make in this debate. I restrict myself to such comments, because I should very much like that, according to the wishes of the government, this bill crosses the stages it must cross at the present time, and that the stage I suggested be added. This way the legislation will be as clear as possible and no one will feel he has failed to do his duty. 612

● (1710)

[*English*]

Mr. Caccia: Madam Speaker, I wonder whether you could ask for unanimous consent of the House to allow me to revert to motions for the purpose of moving the motion regarding the membership of the Standing Committee on Management and Members' Services?

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is there agreement that we revert to motions at this time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERS' SERVICES

MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Madam Speaker, the motion I move reads:

That the members to serve on the Standing Committee on Management and Members' Services be the following: Messrs. Baker (Grenville-Carleton), Baldwin, Comtois, Goodale, Lambert (Edmonton West), Lefebvre, MacGuigan, MacLean, Matte, Kaplan, Reid and Symes.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is there agreement to the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

EXCISE TAX ACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton) that Bill C-66, to amend the Excise Tax Act, be read the second time and referred to committee of the whole and the amendment thereto of Mr. Stanfield (p. 7416).

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, I rise to say again that we in this party are completely opposed to Bill C-66. We believe very strongly that the government should withdraw the bill. If it is not willing to do so, we shall, of course, vote for the six months' hoist proposed in the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). If that is defeated, we shall vote against the motion for the second reading of the bill, whenever the vote on that motion might be called.

May I remind hon. members opposite of a point that was made a few days ago by someone on this side of the House to the effect that we who sit on this side represent some 55 per cent of the voters of Canada. I suspect that on this issue the percentage of the people of Canada whom we represent is much higher.

Mr. Baldwin: It is 56.5 per cent officially now, Stanley.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My statistical assistant tells me that the exact percentage is 56.5 per cent, that is in terms of the vote on July 8, 1974. I suggest that on this issue today the percentage is a lot higher.

I believe we are all interested—and perhaps some of us have some sympathy for him—in the suit that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) is bringing against the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for remarks which he claims have damaged his reputation. The minister feels that the damage done to his reputation by certain things said over the CBC should be worth $100,000.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It so happens that some 18 or 20 years ago I took a publication to court, and although I won the case all I got was $1. So I wish the Minister of Finance well.

Mr. Jamieson: It does not say much for your capacity to be damaged.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That is exactly the point that the judge made, that it was libel but that I had not been hurt.

I suggest to the Minister of Finance that if he wants to find out whether his reputation has really been damaged he should consider what the people of Canada think about his Bill C-66. If that other damage is worth $100,000 to him, this of course should be worth several million dollars, although I do not know where he could collect it.

I want to say a few words on Bill C-66, but I think that I might be permitted for a couple of minutes to say a word about a fact that disturbs many of us, namely, that we are