

*Supply*

that responsibility now is before we are called upon to vote for this measure. I believe, unlike the vote that was just taken a moment ago, there is in our practices a prohibition, or at least an inhibition, applying to members voting on a measure in which they have a pecuniary interest unless they declare that interest. However, I will not press that point. I do press, however, the point of the responsibility, if I could have a reply from the Prime Minister.

**The Chairman:** This morning, the Speaker did rule on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Yukon, and ruled that this item was admissible.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pinard:** Mr. Chairman, the member for Yukon is raising a point of parliamentary practice. Both parliamentary practice and Standing Order 58(10) are perfectly clear on the fact that at this stage, there shall be no questions put nor any debate; questions are to be read by the Chair immediately and put to a vote.

[*English*]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Chairman, the items are at this stage. I am not referring to a point of order raised today. I am referring to a question which surely the Prime Minister is required to explain in response to a civil question put to him. What responsibility does the Minister of State from Hochelaga-Maisonneuve have?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Chairman, the member is asking a civil question. I would be happy to deal with it at some other time. However, the rules at this time call for us to vote without debate, and that is what I propose to do.

**The Chairman:** Shall Schedule A carry?

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Chairman, this is one of the rare occasions when we have the Prime Minister in committee. Perhaps there is no explanation. Perhaps there are no services performed by the Minister of State from Hochelaga-Maisonneuve.

This House of Commons has just been put in a situation imposed upon us by closure by a former Liberal government of having to ram through billions of dollars of estimates without adequate debate. We now have a situation where we are asked to approve a particular estimate that pays a ministerial salary to a minister who apparently does nothing at all except perhaps help the Minister of Justice and his various propagandist activities in the province of Quebec.

It is a very legitimate question. If the Prime Minister has something to tell the House—the Prime Minister has just indicated that he has nothing to tell the House. That clearly indicates that the Minister of State has no responsibilities that merit his collection of a substantial ministerial salary.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** Why, in the name of God, are we paying this man so much money when his own boss does not know what in the world he does?

**The Chairman:** The rules of the House do not provide for debate at this stage. The hon. member has posed his question and, at this stage, as chairman of Committee of the Whole I must put the vote. Is the House ready for the question?

**Mr. Pinard:** Mr. Chairman, let me, just to set the record straight, and it is important for us to do it tonight because we have been misled by the opposition, once by the hon. member for Yukon and now by the Leader of the Opposition. The supply rules were adopted unanimously on December 20, 1968, and not by closure. He should know the facts before making such accusations.

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Chairman—

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order.

**Mr. Clark:** Since the architect for the government side in the bells matter has now entered the debate, and since he is apparently answering for his silent Prime Minister who can tell Canadians nothing except that he intends to scare people to death while he is spending millions and millions of Canadian dollars—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**The Chairman:** The rules of the House provide at this stage that all questions shall be put, and I am quoting, "... forthwith successively, without debate or amendment" in accordance with Standing Order 58, subsection 10. With all due respect to the parties involved, the Chair will now put the question.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order—

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It is a long-standing practice of this House that members having a pecuniary interest in a matter upon which they vote are obliged to declare that interest. I therefore suggest that the Minister of State, for whatever responsibility he has, if he has one which I do not think he does, should rise in his place and declare whether or not he is minister of state drawing any money attached to that position.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Yukon again raises another point of order. I have to rule that it is quite apparent the capacity in which the hon. member would draw his salary. This does not relate to a personal conflict of interest that is in connection with whatever duties are assigned to him in the House of Commons.

**Mr. Clark:** What are they? There are none.

**The Chairman:** Again, I am referring to the rules of the House. The rules provide that at this stage questions shall be put forthwith successively without debate. I am therefore calling for the vote.

**Some hon. Members:** Take the vote.