

myself. This is their bill for which they are asking the House to give approval. If these are elementary facts, surely it is not too much to ask the parliamentary secretary to give us the basis for them. He cannot buffalo me with this computer run stuff. What we need are the supporting facts showing the taxpayers involved, the tax side and the expenditure side.

We are led to believe there will be an \$810 million per year revenue cost and the expenditure savings will be \$690 million in the case of the family allowances. I can only presume the Minister of Finance will have back-up information. I am not talking about computer runs but basic figures that would enable him to say that. If these figures cannot be produced, we can only guess that they have been pulled out of the air in the hope that they would not be questioned and the bill would be passed without proper documentation.

Miss Bégin: Mr. Chairman, I would not want to interrupt the hon. member's dialogue with my colleague. He referred to savings made through reductions in family allowances which are part of the money used to create the new child tax credit. This is very easy to figure out. I will give him the figure if he does not have "Facts on Social Policy", which apparently he does not. It is arrived at by calculating the reduction of \$8 per month times 12 months, times the number of cheques issued for the children of Canada—7.2 million. That amounts to \$690 million. The tax exemption of \$50 and the cancellation of the 16 and 17 year olds special tax privileges have been run by computer in the department. I do not have the working papers, which I do not think are necessary.

It seems to me very important to understand that the program finances itself entirely through the reduction in family allowances—the cancellation of a child tax credit of \$50, a tax exemption in fact, and the cancellation of fiscal privileges for the 16 and 17-year olds.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I want to place on the record our concern about the fact that the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs is sitting tonight at a time when the House is in committee of the whole on an important finance bill. This bill has important social implications; we can see that. It deals essentially with family allowances but there are members who have to be at the finance committee who would like to be here. I want to put that to you as a grievance.

Mr. Martin: On that point of order, Mr. Chairman, I understand the reason there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs this evening is that it was specially requested by the finance critic of the official opposition, the hon. member for York-Simcoe. Indeed, we on this side realized the inconvenience that having a meeting tonight would create for members on both sides of this House. However, the meeting was held in order to meet the request of the hon. member for York-Simcoe.

● (2202)

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I do not want to delay the committee, but I cannot allow the

Family Allowances

parliamentary secretary to go misinformed. The fact is we were put under a guillotine with regard to Bill C-7. I said initially we could hear Governor Bouey of the Bank of Canada. The governor informed us today that the only time he could be here was at eight o'clock tonight, because he goes to Vancouver tomorrow. I said we would not be difficult and if we could accommodate him tonight at eight o'clock, we would. It was the government's move to shorten our time as far as Bill C-7 is concerned, and I hope the view of the parliamentary secretary will in no way prevail.

The Chairman: We are getting into debate. I do not think we are making progress. As chairman of the committee, although I might sympathize with some of the grievances, I have no authority to organize the work of the House. That is done between House leaders. The government has the responsibility of putting forward the business.

It being ten o'clock p.m. it is my duty to rise, report progress and request leave to consider the bill again at the next sitting of the House.

Progress reported.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I trust Your Honour will permit me to point out before this day ends that it was 111 years ago today, on November 6, 1867—

Mr. Woolliams: That you were born.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): —that the House of Commons of Canada held its first sitting.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Symes: Stanley was there!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): How well we have commemorated that day is for someone else to say, but at least I think we have proven that the House of Commons is still alive and well 111 years later.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sure hon. members appreciate the memory of the hon. member, or his endurance. It is appreciated that this fact has been brought to our attention. At the same time, all of us have a responsibility to continue in the right direction.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.