

Supply—Trade and Commerce

ask hon. members from that point on to confine their remarks to the item before the committee.

If I were to give latitude to the hon. member for Yale, what would the hon. member for Moose Mountain say about it? What would be said by the hon. member for Lethbridge, or the hon. member for Frontenac-Addington, or the hon. member for Greenwood, and so on? They would say, "Well, now that this opportunity has been given to the hon. member for Yale, we may all talk again." Where would we be then? Therefore I must ask hon. members to co-operate.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Wright: I should like to bring to the attention of the Chair a point of order—

The Chairman: Apparently two hon. members are rising to discuss a point of order.

Mr. Wright: I would point out that the item now before us is the economics division, including the conducting of investigations and reporting upon current economic conditions and outlook. I suggest that is a fairly broad item. I do not think any hon. members who have spoken have been very far from the subject, namely, the economic outlook in Canada.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): May I venture a suggestion? As the hon. member for Rose-town-Biggar pointed out, there are a good many members who deeply regret they were not here when item 441 was being discussed. Would it be possible for us to return to that item, with consent—

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I am asking the chairman.

The Chairman: In reply to the hon. member for Melfort I would say that a few moments ago I read the citation from the book. My contention is that this vote has to do with the payment of a director of that division who is conducting investigations and reporting upon current economic conditions. That does not mean that we must discuss over again current economic conditions, and the outlook, which was fully discussed under item 441.

Mr. Graydon: On a point of order; I fancy all hon. members have had experience of this kind at one time or another, that is with the discussion overflowing into another item. I agree that there must be some discipline in a discussion of this kind, but I fancy we would make more progress and you, Mr. Chairman, would be much happier, if we were to revert to item 441 for a few moments,

[The Chairman.]

complete that discussion, and then return to our program. I believe this would save time.

The Chairman: I appreciate what has been said by the hon. member for Peel. I am not displeased that the discussion has arisen at this time, because we are now embarking upon the discussion of the estimates, and this point may be raised later on. I know from experience that we are always confronted with the same problem; this is not the first time we have had it.

In committee of supply hon. members are under the impression that, when the first item is called, they are free to discuss matters in general affecting the department, and in that they are correct. But what happens is this: When we come to a subdivision or a subheading under the department, another general discussion ensues. For instance, I see here an item concerning the dominion bureau of statistics. I am reasonably sure that, no matter how much discussion we have had under the administration item with respect to the cost of living, there will be an attempt to discuss it again when we reach the item for the bureau of statistics. And, again, there are items here for the wheat and grain division, and I am sure the whole wheat problem, involving the marketing of wheat, which was discussed on the first item, will be discussed again. Further in the estimates we find that item 458 deals with the Canada Grain Act.

Perhaps hon. members would help me if they would ask themselves what they would do if they were chairman of the committee. How would they have the rules observed, and still be fair to all? At one point or another someone must make a decision, and it just so happens it is my luck to have to do it.

Unless there is unanimous consent we cannot revert to item 441. Is it the wish of the committee to follow the suggestion of the hon. member for Peel that we revert to item 441 and thus reopen the general discussion?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Coldwell: I think it would save time to do that.

The Chairman: I hear some hon. members say no.

Mr. Blackmore: Is it necessary that the decision be unanimous?

The Chairman: Oh, yes. The vote has been called, discussed and carried. If we revert to item 441 at this time it must be by unanimous consent, because the item has been carried.

Perhaps hon. members will keep this in mind, that at a later time we are likely to