

*Interim Supply*

important that they be put on the record, but I have no jurisdiction to change the Standing Orders at this point of the proceedings.

• (10:30 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Chairman, I have heard your remarks with a great deal of interest, and I recognize that you do not have the required authority to change our Standing Orders at this very moment. Since hon. members have only received a copy of the bill seconds before this stage of the proceedings, and since we do not have the right to discuss it, to put questions, so as to know what it is all about, why not then adjourn until tomorrow, to enable the House leaders of all parties to get together, and also to enable each member to get a copy of the bill under consideration?

Mr. Speaker, I still claim that there is discrimination toward the hon. members, and that each one of them is entitled to have on hand a copy of the Appropriation Act, so that the House will give it more than rubber stamp approval.

[*English*]

**Mr. Bell:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, and in an effort to be helpful, I point out that we have gone through this procedure for two or three years. I do not think anybody in the House likes it. But what is making us extra nervous and suspicious this time is that the members on the treasury benches are all here for the first time in years, with the exception of the Secretary of State, glued to their seats and glaring at us. If they would all go home to bed, the rest of us could deal satisfactorily with this matter.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order for one purpose and one purpose only. It is apparent that members on this side of the House who have raised points of order have been immediately supplied with copies of the bill. I would like to have my copy now. I would also like you, Mr. Chairman, to read the rule of which you spoke.

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I think it might be helpful if the Chair were to read the standing order. Standing Order 58 (10) reads:

On the last allotted day in each period, but, in any case, not later than the last sitting day in each period, at fifteen minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings then in progress and, if those proceedings are not in relation to a no-confidence motion, he shall put forthwith successively, without debate or amendment, every question necessary to dispose of any item of business relating to interim supply, main estimates, and supplementary or final estimates, the restoration or reinstatement of any item in the estimates or any opposed item in the estimates, and for the passage at all stages of any bill or bills based thereon—

Hon. members have now heard the Standing Order. I can only repeat that the Standing Order must bind me. I have listened and am sympathetic to the points of orders of hon. members. If they wish to continue raising points of order, I will listen to them; but I would appeal to them

[*The Chairman.*]

not to raise the same point of order because it has been carefully noted.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Chairman, for the information of hon. members, I would ask you to read the Standing Order which allows the government to deprive hon. members of their copy of a supply bill.

[*English*]

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Chairman, in relation to the points of order that have been raised it might be helpful if I were to explain that our custom is to deal with this matter in the form of a resolution, which is on the Order Paper today and of which each member has a copy. That resolution is the one we voted on tonight. This is followed by the consideration of a bill which is based explicitly and precisely on the terms of the resolution, which indicates in detail the provisions being voted on and granted. There is the further assurance, the customary assurance given by the government, that the bill is in accordance—precisely in accordance—with the terms of the resolution. I suggest, therefore, that if hon. members wish to know exactly what is contained in the bill they need merely refer to the resolution.

**The Chairman:** Order, please. Will hon. members resume their seats. I shall recognize them in a moment. Again I admonish hon. members not to reiterate the same point of order, because it has been well noted.

• (10:30 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Chairman, as the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) has just said, hon. members can read the main motion. Why not then take a ten-minute recess so I could let my colleagues read the only copy we have had so far in order to let everyone know what is going on?

Mr. Chairman, that is one of our most fundamental rights and if the government does not know enough to provide each member with a copy of the bill, thus forcing us to give it blind approval, the situation is utterly ridiculous and we will have to recognize that this is the type of democracy the Liberal administration imposes upon us.

[*English*]

Clause 1 agreed to.

**The Chairman:** Shall the preamble carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chairman:** Shall the title carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chairman:** Shall the bill carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chairman:** Shall I rise and report the bill?