

way, I did so for their own good and to ensure respect in the home.

Mr. Speaker, during the holiday season, thinking about the message "Peace on earth to men of good will", I believe that we should take our responsibilities, discuss matters in depth, and go to the committee to discuss this bill. If the committee determines that some aspects of this bill should be changed or amended, we shall have to take our responsibilities and report to this House accordingly.

[English]

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I shall make a very brief contribution to the point of order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brewin: I know that statement always receives applause in this House, especially in the emotional state which seems to exist at the moment.

An hon. Member: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Brewin: I do not intend to attempt to add to the learned arguments based on Beauchesne, May and the other precedents. However, I suggest to Your Honour it would be a denigration of the sovereign powers of this parliament to rule that we do not have the right to refer this matter to a commission to be created in the future. I do not think it is right for this parliament to start placing limitations on its power to deal with its own affairs. I suggest this is a pettifogging practice which has been suggested, and that Your Honour should rule we can do precisely what we want. We have the right to turn down this amendment, but I suggest we have no right not to put it to a vote.

Mr. Speaker: If there are no other hon. members who wish to contribute to the point of order, may I say I have some grave reservations about it. It is a very important point, dealing as it does with reasoned amendments proposed at the second reading stage. I understand that hon. members may be anxious to have the matter disposed of tonight and I would hope this would be possible, but because of the number of arguments and precedents which have been put forward I would need at least a few moments to put them together, and then perhaps before ten o'clock a ruling could be made.

I do wish to say, in respect of some of the contributions which have been made to the debate that the right of hon. members to put forward their points of view concerning what ought to be done, or to argue in the debate or participate in the debate, is not in any way restricted. The right, however, to introduce amendments on a second reading motion may be a subject of somewhat different interpretation, but the two are not necessarily related. It is always possible for a member to stand up in his place on second reading and make a suggestion concerning the course the House might follow. That is legitimate. However, the question of whether he might bring forward an amendment on second reading is another matter, and I do not think the two should be confused.

Members' Salaries

● (2110)

In any case I will take all these very interesting representations under advisement and try to return to the chair at about 9:45 p.m. to give a ruling. In the meantime, I hope much useful comment can be made by hon. members on the matter under discussion.

I understand that there was some disposition in the House to permit the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Leblanc) to present a report. Is it agreed that the hon. member should have leave to revert to presentation of reports at this time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

Mr. Fernand E. Leblanc (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, there has been an agreement with all leaders of the opposition to allow me to present tonight the report regarding the bill that has been examined by the Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates. I have the honour of presenting the first report of the Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates in both official languages.

[Editor's Note: For text of the above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT, THE SALARIES ACT AND THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp that Bill C-44, to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Salaries Act and the Parliamentary Secretaries Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, this is my first opportunity since your elevation to that post to speak in the House of Commons, and I would like to congratulate you on the very wonderful way in which you are fulfilling your duties.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mackasey: I think this is at best an emotional subject, certainly one that can arouse the passions of most