

Procedure Committee Report

I believe that the best recommendations we could make to the Canada Council would be to not only promote the training of artists but also assist in planning artistic manifestations.

It is not enough to have talents, for we can find them in the public; it is not enough to train them in Canada, they must have the opportunity to perform for the Canadian people. I think this would be the specific role of the Canada Council.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we hope that this is merely a temporary measure. But according to what the Prime Minister said, this temporary measure would become permanent before long. This is our hope also. With regard to scholarships for university students, about which some hon. members have already spoken in the house, Mr. Speaker, I think the Canada Council should be careful not to encroach on provincial autonomy in the field of education. It is recognized that education comes under the provinces. In my opinion, the Canada Council should respect the provincial autonomy in the matter of education.

At all events we hope the government will increase its assistance and grants to our artists, that it will put more money at the disposal of our artists, our classical scholars, our poets, our composers and others, so that the artistic, literary and cultural life may flourish in our country and that our people may enjoy henceforth a more active cultural life.

[Text]

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1964-65

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting supplementary estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1965, was presented by Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council), read by Mr. Speaker to the house, and referred to the committee of supply.

PROCEDURE**MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN FIFTEENTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

On the order:

March 18—Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Walker,—that the fifteenth report of the special committee on procedure and organization, presented to the house on December 14, 1964, be now concurred in.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Prime Minister would be willing on behalf of the government to permit this matter to be postponed for a moment so that we may have the question period and then return to this motion. Because it begins to

[Mr. Grégoire.]

look as if the motion is going to take the rest of the day. If there were a restriction on questions to half an hour, no harm would be done and it would be helpful.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we hope the motion would not take the rest of the day.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If I understood the consensus or the agreement reached yesterday, I believe the motion was to stand this morning and not be proceeded with, but of course I am in the hands of the house.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that understanding is shared by all members. The suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition to proceed now to the orders of the day for questions, and then return to the order of motions, I think is quite fair.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): With reference to this suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker), exactly two days ago, I think, the government house leader, as well as Your Honour, asked us to suspend the debate on the question of privilege in order to proceed to the question period, which we gladly agreed to. I trust the house leader will return the courtesy we extended in allowing the Prime Minister to give an explanation which has been so helpful to him today, and that the question period as requested by the opposition will be allowed.

I think it would be a fair exchange for the courtesy we extended to him the other day.

[Text]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, before the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition is dealt with perhaps I could take a moment to deal with the motion, since it may be that the suggestion will not need to be considered.

The situation yesterday was that I had understood clearly the consensus was that a full, long day would be assigned for debating this motion, and it was in accordance with that understanding that the debate was had yesterday. Near the conclusion of the debate, a speech was made by the Prime Minister in which he dealt at some length with the report. In the course of his speech, the Prime Minister made very clear that, speaking as Prime Minister, he considered the main recommendations of the report most important. In dealing with the part of those recommendations concerning committee structure and referral of estimates, he went on to say that