

Supply

However, my hon. friend chose this moment when, with all due respect, Mr. Speaker—and I know we have to keep the traditions—there are many people who want to make travel plans, including members of his own Party. There are times and places to do this. If we want to deal with all those niceties, we should deal with them early in the morning.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands has been pursuing this general matter, I might say, with tenacity and with diligence.

However, in giving credit to good counsel where credit is due, each of the applications has perhaps been on the same issue, but there have been variations thereof.

I appreciate the fact that the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands gave some indication of what his point might be and enabled me to do some prior thinking on it. I have listened carefully to what the Hon. Member has said. The Hon. Member knows what I ruled a few days ago, and he further knows what I had to rule this afternoon.

The essential issue that he puts forward raises the question: Does a supply Bill, because it contains the warrants issued in the previous session, require a royal recommendation? That is in effect the issue. The Hon. Member has cited Section 54 of the Constitution Act, 1867 and Standing Order 79. The Chair concedes that Standing Order 79 requires that a royal recommendation be attached to any Bill or appropriation of any part of the public revenue.

On the present case in the present Bill, Clause 3 contains the amounts that were appropriated by warrants prior to April 1. They are included in the Bill by virtue of Section 30(4) of the Financial Administration Act.

• (1820)

I want to quote that Act because it is important. Subsection 4 reads, in English:

Where a special warrant has been issued pursuant to this Section, the amounts appropriated thereby shall be deemed to be included in and not to be in addition to the amounts appropriated by the Act of Parliament enacted next thereafter for granting to Her Majesty sums of money to defray expenses of the Public Service of Canada for a fiscal year.

If there is any doubt as to what that means, it reads, in French:

[*Translation*]

Les montants affectés par mandat spécial sont réputés être des avances. Ils font partie des montants affectés par la première loi de crédits votée par le Parlement par la suite et ne s'y ajoutent pas.

[*English*]

We are bound by the plain wording of the Financial Administration Act. I have to conclude that the warrants have already received Her Excellency's approval and they were tabled in the House. They are now before the House because they are required to be so by the statute to which I have just referred and not as a requirement of the Standing Orders.

I repeat to the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands that the point he is pursuing, as I said with tenacity and diligence, is in itself an important point. However, as I said earlier this afternoon, it is not within the prerogative of the Chair to resolve what may clearly be a legitimate grievance. It will have to be settled in some other place and in some other way.

I regret to have to inform the Hon. Member that his point of order cannot be sustained. As I said earlier today, he may have a grievance and that is a matter for the whole House to deal with.

However, I want to say to the Hon. Member that I appreciate his points. I have also appreciated his succinct and capable arguments.

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Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We have what I think is a good practice of applying the results of previous votes. If you were to seek unanimous consent, we would accept the application of the previous recorded division to this motion.