

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

he and the government have given consideration to the proposal made from this side of the house on Friday evening, namely, that standing order 58 be invoked so that the Minister of Finance might make his presentation with the Speaker in the chair.

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** The part of standing order 58 to which the hon. member refers would be the announcement by the Minister of Finance that he is going to present a budget. We propose invoking standing order 58 to move into committee of ways and means, and my suggestion of Friday morning still stands.

**Mr. Chevrier:** May I ask this supplementary question. How then, in view of that decision, does the government justify this flagrant disregard of the rights of parliament in denying an opportunity to the opposition to test the financial policies of the government for this fiscal year?

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, this is entering into an argument at the wrong time in the proceedings of the house. There is no flagrant disregard of the rights of parliament at all. The last people who should talk about that are the people in the Liberal party.

**Mr. Chevrier:** May I ask—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I trust that the hon. member will ask a supplementary question and not continue what appears to be the start of a debate at this point. We are on orders of the day.

**Mr. Chevrier:** It is a supplementary question and it is not argumentative in the slightest degree, although I say to you, with respect, that under the particular circumstances in which we find ourselves now I think perhaps some latitude should be allowed. In any event, I will put my question. Does this mean, then, that we will in effect have a budget debate but without a budget?

**Mr. Churchill:** I do not see how this is possible. Hon. members may draw their own conclusions, but there has been a budget this year. We moved into ways and means—

**Some hon. Members:** But no debate.

**Mr. Churchill:** It was then debated by the Leader of the Opposition—

**Mr. Pearson:** Fifteen minutes.

**Mr. Churchill:**—and a representative of the C.C.F. party on two days. We will move into ways and means and consider the resolutions.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has been getting the eye of the Chair, and I think perhaps I will come back to the hon. member later.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** You are perfectly right, Mr. Speaker. When I was trying to get your eye, it was with a supplementary. We have moved on a bit, however, and I now rise merely to make this suggestion. It seems to me that a point of order is developing, but that this is not the moment for it. I would ask that when the order is called, Your Honour see and hear me, for I shall raise a point of order at the appropriate moment.

**Mr. Chevrier:** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I say that I think the point is well taken. Will Your Honour then give an opportunity of raising a point of order when the item which will soon be under discussion is called; because if Your Honour rules that out of order then I believe, under the particular circumstances in which we find ourselves, there should be some further interrogation of the government.

**Mr. Churchill:** I hope Your Honour has understood the question as I have. The point of order would be raised when Mr. Speaker has left the chair and the chairman is in charge, according to the standing order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think I am being asked to rule on a hypothetical situation, because I have no knowledge yet of any point of order being actually raised of when the Speaker is to leave the chair because the Speaker, at the moment, does not see that he is going to leave the chair.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** May I ask the Prime Minister whether it is the intention of the government to bring down a supplementary budget for the current financial year?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, when we arrive at that point of business the fullest information will be given in this connection, and the hon. gentleman will then be able to make whatever interpretation he chooses on the basis of the stand being taken.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****INDIA-CHINA-CANADIAN POSITION FOLLOWING MILITARY ACTION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the serious military situation created by the invasion of a commonwealth