

our procedure in regard to a resolution in ways and means is distinctive; no notice is required for the very reason that such resolutions are introduced in committee of ways and means. The resolution does not exist until it is introduced in committee of ways and means which is set up not by notice but at the beginning of each session. No motion is required for the Speaker to leave the chair and the house to go into committee of ways and means to consider something about which the house may have no notice at all. I am assured by the clerks that there is not one single precedent in the whole history of this parliament of a ways and means resolution having been placed on the order paper by way of formal notice. It is only appended to the notice paper. There must be a reason that this type of resolution is not given the usual type of notice provided for by standing order No. 41. The reason is that such resolutions are initiated in ways and means.

• (4:30 p.m.)

Perhaps I should have mentioned the other day that there is an apparent discrepancy between the procedure which has always been followed and standing order 41. It may well be that our rules should be amended in some way relative to supply and ways and means procedure or that we should change the procedure which has been followed in the past. Certainly there seems to be something basically wrong with the principle that a resolution can be brought in without notice at all in the committee of ways and means, by virtue of a long-standing practice of the House of Commons. Some hon. members may wish that I submit this matter to the committee on procedure. In fact, I propose to submit it to the chairman of the committee and ask him to review the situation which was raised at the time. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre said that it was a grey area. I admit that it is at least grey and I would ask him, along with his colleagues on the committee, to review the situation.

Returning to the perhaps more important question raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and other hon. members and having considered the point of order, the house might allow me a few moments to review the argument, to look over the blues and study the precedents quoted by all hon. members. I am sure I will be in a position in the latter part of this afternoon to give a decision. If the government house leader is in agreement I would suggest that he might call another order to allow the Speaker to leave the chair.

27053—471½

Supply—Finance

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, your suggestion can be carried out by the house going into the committee of supply and continuing with the supplementary estimates of the Department of Finance.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Tardif in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Administration—

4c. Grant to the endowment fund of the Vanier Institute of the Family—L'institut Vanier de la famille, \$236,869.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order. House again in committee of supply, supplementary estimates (C) 1967-68, Department of Finance, vote 4c.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, before we proceed with the estimates of the Department of Finance, a suggestion has been made widely on this side of the house which I am happy to voice. The suggestion is that we take up the supplementary items of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am sure we can pass these quickly and give the veterans the assurance that their disability pensions will be increased.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, we are prepared to pass the estimates of the Department of Finance and then we might proceed with the Department of Veterans Affairs. I believe this would satisfy everybody.

Item agreed to.

Municipal Development and Loan Board—

46c. Further amount required in the current and subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of Finance Votes 50b of Appropriation Act No. 2, 1966, and 50e of Appropriation Act No. 4, 1966, respecting the forgiveness of 25% of the amounts of the loans made to municipalities under the Municipal Development and Loan Act, \$17,000,000.

Item agreed to.

INSURANCE

1c. Departmental administration, \$11,300.

Item agreed to.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, if it is acceptable to the Chair we might now call the Department of Veterans Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Administration—

1c. Departmental Administration—To extend the purposes of Veterans Affairs Vote 1 of the Main Estimates for 1967-68 to include the recoverable expenditures and the payment detailed in these Estimates, \$1.