

Further, this house is of the opinion that the harmful and dangerous effects of the rising cost of living demand immediate and effective action."

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member permit me to interrupt him since he is speaking on the amendment? I would call the attention of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) to citation 488 of "Beauchesne's second edition," which reads:

Whenever an order of the day has been read for the house to resolve itself into the committee of supply or the committee of ways and means, the motion "That the Speaker do now leave the Chair" must be proposed, except in cases provided by standing order 28. When such motion is proposed, it shall be permissible to discuss any public matter within the power of the federal parliament or to ask for the redress of any grievance, and it is not necessary to move an amendment for that purpose; provided that the discussion and the amendment, if one is moved, shall not relate to any decision of the house during the current session, nor to any item of the estimates, nor to any resolution to be proposed to the committee of ways and means, not to any matter placed on or whereof notice has been given in the order paper.

If the hon. member will look at page 12 of today's order paper, item No. 12, he will find that it reads:

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister of Justice for the second reading of Bill No. 104, an act to provide for the continuation of certain orders and regulations of the governor in council for a limited period during the national emergency arising out of the war, and on the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Fleming.

The amendment of the hon. member reads as follows:

This house desires to record its opinion that the government should give consideration to the immediate restoration of price control on and lower prices for the necessities of life, particularly articles of food and clothing, shelter, household appliances, and supplies and machinery needed by the farmers in connection with their work.

We have on the order paper, as the house knows, Bill No. 104, which, if hon. gentlemen will look at page 3 of the bill, they will see contains the schedule of orders and regulations of the governor in council, and in that schedule order in council 8528 appears, dealing with the wartime prices and trade board and its regulations as amended by orders in council. The hon. member knows that the object of the wartime prices and trade board is to regulate prices, and when this bill comes before the house the hon. member will have an opportunity to make any representations he cares to make to the house that prices should be increased or decreased or maintained. So, in accordance with the citation I have just given, 488, I am of the opinion that the amendment is out of order.

Mr. COLDWELL: Mr. Speaker, may I say one word before you give your ruling. I did consider most of the matters which you have raised in discussing the ruling you propose to make but, if Your Honour will look at citation 345, page 137, of "Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, third edition," you will find this:

The ancient doctrine that the redress of grievances should be considered before the grant of supplies is maintained in the House of Commons of Canada by the provision of standing order 49 that the motion for the Speaker to leave the Chair can be amended; and the amendments need not be relevant but may relate to every question connected with public administration.

To be perfectly fair, I will read the concluding sentences as well because I do not think it would be fair for me to stop there. The part I have read says that the amendments may relate to every question connected with public administration, and I suggest that the amendment which I have moved does not fall within the category to which Your Honour has referred in quoting this citation, nor is it covered by the concluding words of citation 345, which goes on to say:

Only one amendment and one subamendment may be made to this motion, but if the amendment is negatived, a discussion on other questions may be raised but no other amendment can be proposed. If, however, it is withdrawn, another can be at once submitted to the House. Matters of detail which should be discussed in committee cannot be debated on these occasions—

Matters of detail.

—nor can debate be permitted relating to grants already agreed to, or to resolutions which will be proposed in the committee—

That is the committee of supply.

—or to items in the estimates.

Again, that would be in committee of supply. It goes on:

Members may discuss various matters on the motion for the Speaker to leave the Chair without any amendment being proposed; but once debate is stopped on one matter and another matter intervenes, members cannot again discuss the former.

My amendment, I submit, deals with a matter of principle, not a matter of detail. I would further submit that Bill No. 104, to which Your Honour has referred, dealing with powers which it is proposed to extend beyond May 15 for a limited period, does not cover nearly all the matters included in my amendment. It may be that by inference some of them are covered, but the amendment as a whole deals with matters that are not dealt with in the bill before the house. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I submit that on these grounds the amendment is in order.