

down, is at stake in this question. We should not break for our summer recess until we have dealt with the matter of increasing the pensions of retired civil servants, and that is the purpose of my amendment.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I wish merely to raise a point of order in respect of the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). The amendment introduces into the proposal before us a matter which is certainly outside the scope of the proposition itself. The motion deals strictly with the ending of this part of the session and the resumption of the session in the fall. This amendment introduces a declaration of policy in the words following "any other measures", respecting the pensions of retired civil servants. If the amendment were permissible it would be possible for any member to add to it a series of further legislative requirements, thereby obliging the house to take further actions other than those required by the motion which are concerned strictly with the adjournment and resumption of the session. On procedural grounds I submit the amendment is irrelevant to the motion and cannot be entertained or put to the house.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised at the attitude taken by the minister. No one has a monopoly of sympathy for retired civil servants. Members on this side have continually pressed for action in this regard. The government gave an implicit undertaking, at least it could be so interpreted, that action would be taken. I am surprised that the minister now repudiates, by raising a technical objection, the promise that retired civil servants would receive a measure of consideration which the government has not given. The minister has said that parliament would be placed in an impossible position if this amendment were passed. Let me point out that a committee of both houses unanimously supported this measure some months ago.

**Mr. Douglas:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There can be no justification whatsoever for the argument raised by the minister. However, it will be supported by those members who support the government. They will by their support be joining together in repudiation of the undertaking of the government, reinforced by—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the right hon. Leader of the Opposition, but I think I should remind him and

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other hon. members that the motion has not yet been put to the house. We are considering the point of order raised by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I suggest that our discussion should be limited to that point of order.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know how you separate the wheat from the chaff, the chaff having been placed before the house by the minister. That is the difficult position in which we are placed. When the minister advanced this argument I took it that he was not serious about it, and that this was just another roadblock put forward by the government to delay action.

**Miss LaMarsh:** He is a better lawyer than you are.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I think everyone is pleased to have an adjournment in sight. My own opinion is that parliament undermines itself when it sits as long as it has in the last few years. In this way it destroys itself. I cannot understand why the adjournment is until September 25. I could understand it if it was until September 18 because that is my birthday. An adjournment until September has some significance. I would ask Your Honour not to let the house be hogtied by a technical argument such as the one advanced by the minister for the purpose of bailing the government out of difficulty.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, as government house leader, has raised a point of order. It is a very clear and simple one, and I suggest that the answer to it is also very clear and simple. I ask Your Honour to note the words immediately preceding that point in which I suggest we insert the words of my amendment. Those words are "and to any other measures". The minister suggests that this is a restrictive motion and relates merely to royal assent to two supply bills.

The government in its own motion put in the words "to any other measures". What the minister has said is quite correct. Anybody could bring in another measure and be within the four corners of that phrase. I am not adding something new by my proposal, and I suggest it is within the four corners of that phrase.

**Mr. MacEachen:** May I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Knowles:** Surely.