

Ways and Means

That is the general rule, and it could not be more clearly stated. There is one exception, Mr. Speaker, and only one. It is that—

—the provisions of this section shall not apply when the said order is called for the purpose of enabling a minister of the crown to make the budget presentation.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, to depart from the general rule, it is necessary that the case be brought squarely within the exception; and far from the case before us now being brought within the exception, it has been stated in the plainest possible terms that the item is not being called in order to enable a minister of the crown to make a budget presentation. It does not lie within the mouth of the Leader of the Opposition, or the hon. member for Laurier, or the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, to put words in the mouth of a minister of the crown. It does not lie within their power to impose upon the government an intention to use this procedure for a purpose other than that for which the government proposes to use it. Therefore it seems to me that the opposition—the hon. members to whom I have referred—are vastly exceeding their rights in attempting to dictate this course.

Mr. Speaker, let me indicate—I hope I will not be long in doing so—why this procedure that the government is proposing today is correct and why it has well established precedents to support it. I submit that it is altogether out of order to raise this point as it has been raised. This is a simple motion. It is quite unlike a budget motion; for that, after all, Mr. Speaker, is a presentation in which, with due announcement beforehand according to the practice of the house, the minister of finance customarily moves to resolve the house into committee of ways and means on certain proposed resolutions, which he introduces as part of his budget speech and which are then inscribed in the records of this house as part of the budget speech.

That is in no way whatever the situation today. What the house is being asked to do today is to go into committee of ways and means. The note on the order paper simply makes reference to resolutions that appear on the notice paper of *Votes and Proceedings* of September 27, 1962. So this is not to be equated at all with a budget presentation. No minister is asking to make a budget speech to the house, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Gordon: There should be.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. member for Davenport can pontificate elsewhere, but he will have to earn his spurs in this house before he talks in that way. I can assure him in a very friendly spirit that he has a long

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

way to go yet. Mr. Speaker, hon. members opposite are trying to play with words on this subject of budgets. I stress what has already been stated in clear terms in this house. This is not a budget presentation which is proposed today.

An hon. Member: When will there be a budget?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): If the hon. member opposite will desist from using his lungs and his voice and uses his ears instead, I think he will find them a more useful organ for the purpose.

Mr. Speaker: Order. At the moment we are hearing the Minister of Justice. If there are no provocations, perhaps there will be no provocative answers. If we listen to the hon. member who has the floor I think we will get rather more light than heat.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, the house has already been assured that there will be a budget—not today, but that there will be a budget—in due course. When that is introduced the normal procedure of the house will be followed. Today, Mr. Speaker, as the house has been made aware, this is a matter of dealing with certain tax changes which were proposed last April and were not completed before dissolution. May I remind the house that six months and a general election have intervened since the budget of April 10 this year. The house does not simply begin where it left off in April.

On the point that hon. members claim to be deprived by the motion today of the right to introduce amendments and to have a debate with the Speaker in the chair, that assertion is hollow and specious. Amendments to the budget, as everyone knows, are rarely related to the actual terms of the budget proposals. Usually they consist of general condemnation of policy or administration. This type of amendment can be introduced on supply motions. It can be introduced on the budget when the budget is introduced in due course. I say that every amendment which any hon. member could wish to introduce to a budget, if it were introduced now, could be moved on a supply motion, and we will be having six of them in the course of the session if the house chooses to go forward. Mr. Speaker, let me remind the house that a few days ago we completed the debate on the address, and there were no fewer than five motions in general terms of the same nature as those usually moved on the budget. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this talk of being deprived of the right to introduce amendments or subamendments is surely entirely hollow and unsubstantial.