

Supplementary Estimates (A), 1972-73

able to attend the committee proceedings this morning but I understand the issue was raised.

In these circumstances I wish to move a motion. I will read it so that Your Honour may determine whether I am entitled to put it. I would move:

That this House do recall from the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates the item in the Supplementary Estimate (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1973 listed under Manpower and Immigration as vote L30a in the sum of \$454,000,000 and that the Auditor General be directed to examine the accounts of the unemployment insurance fund for 1972-73 and in particular Governor General's Warrants purporting to appropriate the said sum of \$454,000,000 and to report his findings to the Standing Committee of Miscellaneous Estimates, and said committee to report back to this House on this matter no later than March 20th, 1973.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River has raised a very interesting point. He kindly gave me notice but his notice did not refer to a question of privilege. I have some doubts whether the matter should have been raised at this stage in view of the precedents on privilege, since the hon. member himself, either in his notice or in his presentation to the House, failed to refer to privilege.

He suggests that there is some impropriety or illegality in the procedure being proposed by the government. That may be so, but I do not think it is the responsibility of the Chair to rule on such questions. I respectfully suggest to the hon. member, and I am quite sure he will agree with me, that the motion which he proposes is a substantive motion. It is clearly that, and I fail to see how a substantive motion can be raised by the hon. member at this stage. There are provisions in the Standing Orders for motions of substance to be moved in certain circumstances by following certain procedures with notice. I suggest to the hon. member that perhaps he might look into this matter further and find some other way of having the matter debated in the House.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, in view of the very serious nature of the matter raised by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) and in view of the validity of his observations, I wonder whether the House would be prone to give its consent to having that particular item in the supplementary estimates recalled from the committee and reconsidered by the government. If the hon. member for Peace River is found to be right in the eyes of the government, then it can be dealt with properly; if not, it can be returned to the committee.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as to the point of order that has been raised by the hon. member, there is no foundation whatever to the allegation of any impropriety or illegality in the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the President of the Privy Council that if he wanted to discuss the matter raised by the hon. member for Peace River he should have presented earlier the arguments he is attempting to make now. According to my understanding, what we have before us now is, essentially, a motion under Standing Order 43 by the hon. member for Yukon suggesting that if there is unanimous consent the item could be recalled from the miscellaneous estimates committee. That is the

[Mr. Baldwin.]

only basis on which there can be discussion now. If the minister would direct his remarks to that point, it might be helpful.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, of course, I accept your ruling. I was not certain when the hon. member was making his submission whether it was on the basis of privilege. If we are to consider the hon. member's suggestion as a request for unanimous consent to withdraw the estimates—

Mr. Nielsen: Just one item.

Mr. MacEachen: —or any item from the committee, we cannot accept that because we have proceeded properly under the rules of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This again is debate. The hon. member is asking that under the terms of Standing Order 43 the motion be put to the House. I have to inquire whether there is unanimous consent. The minister has indicated there is not unanimous consent. Presenting reports—

Mr. Rowland: On motions, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before we get to that item I will call presentation of reports. Motions.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING AND UNEMPLOYMENT— REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I seek leave to move a motion in view of the urgent need for legislation to respond to the increases in the cost of living and in the high levels of unemployment. I propose to move with the unanimous consent of the House, seconded by the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies):

That this House call on the government to present to the House as its first and immediate priority its legislative and regulatory program on the current economic, inflationary and unemployment crisis of the country, instead of those items now appearing on the order paper, in response to the increased costs in the food, clothing, housing and transport sectors of our economy and the record-breaking level of unemployment.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Northumberland-Durham proposes this motion under the terms of Standing Order 43 which requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.