

I think, by the same token, the minutes that were used when the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville was speaking the second time should not be counted in the total of the minutes. There is no criticism of him for having spoken. What he said does not need to be struck from the record. However, I do not think that extra time should be added, just as I do not think he should count the time that has been taken on these various points of order. As for the motion that the question be now put, I refer my hon. friends to the rule books.

Mr. Roberts: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker. I listened with considerable interest to the remarks of the House leader of the New Democratic Party in relation to the motion which was, as I understood it, attempted to be moved by the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker). In addition to other rather grave objections which have been referred to, the attempt he is trying to make, surely in terms of the rules of the House, and I do not have the book close by me, is an attempt to move such a motion while rising on a point of order, and to do that on the basis of holding the floor of the House to express a point of order is clearly in opposition to the rules. I am sure there are other hon. members who could direct you to the specific citation, indicating that that is clearly the case. As has been pointed out quite correctly, that kind of motion is debatable. I believe under Citation 452 of Beuchesne that is not the proper kind of motion to be moved by an hon. member rising on a point of order. That is clearly and simply contrary to the rules. I would argue it is also a rather improper attempt, but that would lead us into a debate as to motivation of actions and I do not want that. I would ask Your Honour to look at Beuchesne to verify the point of whether or not the argument I am making is adequate, that it is impossible to make such a motion in the way the hon. member has attempted to do.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the remark. As you know from many long years of association with me, Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for the House, the Chair, the rules, the customs, traditions and precedents. I thank the minister for bringing that to my attention. It would never be my intention to offend the rules of the House. If the minister is correct in that, I would most definitely withdraw the motion.

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, a moment or two ago the parliamentary secretary said he had some indication the government might be prepared to accede to the production of papers. What we are arguing here is not whether it was right or wrong for the decentralization to take place. The motion before the House is for the production of papers so that people on all sides with regard to any part of this question can see what happened. It is freedom of information. I compliment the hon. member for Hillsborough and others on what they said. What we are getting at is the production of papers so that we can have freedom of information. If the parliamentary secretary can assure us of that, the matter will be concluded.

Mr. Collenette: I do not want to belabour the point, Mr. Speaker, but we did not have notice that this was to be discussed today. I covered those grounds. We have been trying

Point of Order—Mr. Hawkes

to get in touch with the Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs so he may come to the House and give the assurances that the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville wants. I indicated that the government may well be disposed to allowing these papers to be produced, but, in all fairness, the hon. member for Laurier and the hon. member for Vaudreuil would like to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

POINT OF ORDER

MR. CLARK—THE CONSTITUTION—APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT

Madam Speaker: I did not understand the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) had finished his intervention. Since he is not here on this point of order I will take it under advisement and rule later tomorrow.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

ESTIMATES

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO PROPOSAL FOR REFORM OF ESTIMATES

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), it gives me great pleasure to table documents relating to the government's proposal for reform of the estimates.

Madam Speaker: Introduction of bills. The hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Scott), stand. The hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields), stand.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, are we at the point where it is appropriate to discuss the point of order raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) regarding the motion of the House leader?

Madam Speaker: No, we are not there yet.