

*Income Tax Act*

of another deferred profit sharing plan the amount to his credit in the first mentioned plan may be transferred to his credit in the second mentioned plan without attracting tax on the amount so transferred.

15. That the amount to the credit of an annuitant under a registered retirement savings plan may be transferred at any time before the maturity of the plan to another registered retirement savings plan or to a registered pension fund or plan without attracting tax on the amount so transferred.

**Mr. Pearson:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure that we know exactly where we stand in regard to the statement which presumably the Minister of Finance is now going to make. We anticipate that statement, of course, in the light of the statement made previously by the house leader as to the ground it is likely to cover, provided he gets the unanimous consent of this committee. The fact that he has to receive the consent of every hon. member of this committee shows how unusual is this procedure; indeed, how unique and unprecedented it is.

I do not propose, myself, to do anything to prevent the minister making this kind of statement, which we anticipate will be a budget statement. We assume that the minister will be, in effect, making a budget statement. We on this side of the chamber are very anxious to get the whole budgetary position before parliament and before the country. We hope the minister will make that kind of statement even though we are prevented by this procedure from dealing with the statement in the way in which it should be dealt with.

So far as we are concerned, Mr. Chairman, we will waive at this time our right to protest again about this procedure; and so far as I am concerned, if the minister wishes to make a general statement at this time we will not keep him strictly to the rule of relevance, no matter what we may think of the procedure that has been adopted.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, in connection with the point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition, in so far as unanimous consent is concerned, that was asked in anticipation of the Minister of Finance speaking at length beyond the ordinary period allowed. There is no budget presentation; there will be no budget presentation. The budget will come in due course. I want to make that very clear. Furthermore, when my hon. friends opposite talk about closure—

**Mr. Chevrier:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**The Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Chevrier:** The point of order, sir, is that this matter—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman—

**The Chairman:** Order. I think at the outset I should just make the observation that a fair amount of latitude was allowed the Leader of the Opposition in the comments he had to make. I have no idea what point of order the hon. member for Laurier is raising, but I will be glad to hear him.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Mr. Chairman, the point of order I raise is this, that we did discuss the matter when the Speaker was in the chair and that matter, I understand, was disposed of. Now the Prime Minister is attempting to smuggle or bootleg in exactly the same thing that was prohibited then. My submission to you, Mr. Chairman, is this. I have no objection, but I trust that we will be given the opportunity to reply under exactly the same circumstances as the Prime Minister is being given at the moment.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, I am very interested in the word "smuggle" used by the hon. member for Laurier. I am glad he used that expression to describe what he said just a few moments ago when he referred to the question of closure. This is not a budget presentation. I never knew of closure which would permit hon. members of the house to discuss a matter for 30 days if they chose to do so. That is what we are doing here; we are giving them every opportunity to have their say.

**Miss LaMarsh:** Without a vote.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Indeed, one hon. member opposite said this afternoon that under normal circumstances it would be extraordinary if there were a budget debate of six days. Now they have this additional time. In addition to that, if my hon. friends opposite have objection to the Minister of Finance making a general statement on the economy rather than a budget presentation, he certainly will not go ahead in that direction at all. We do not want to do anything that is against their wishes.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Let me assure the Prime Minister at once that there is not the slightest objection to the Minister of Finance going ahead in the manner in which it is his intention to do. What there is objection to, and serious objection, is the extraordinary manner in which this is being done by the government—that the Minister of Finance is allowed to make this lengthy statement on monetary and financial affairs, a state of the nation speech, as it were, without the usual right of the opposition to move amendments to the policy of the government—