

Supply

Mr. Mayer: Mr. Chairman, in response to the Hon. Member for Algoma, that was not the way the committee functioned last year. I guess you could say in one sense the committee heard appeals or concerns from producers. However, that was not the process which resulted in action being taken. We are trying to make the plan as effective as we can and we want to accommodate as many producer concerns as we possibly can. Everyone should understand that the review committee will be hearing appeals and, on the basis of what they hear, they will make representations to the Government as to how to proceed with those appeals.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

• (1300)

Mr. Foster: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I think it is extremely bad form to be proceeding with a Bill which is not available to Members of the House generally.

The Deputy Chairman: I agree that that should not happen. I regret that the Hon. Member has not received a copy of the Bill. I am sure he will receive it later today.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order, I just want to echo my colleague's comments that we should have the legislation before us.

Mr. Foster: I hope that the Minister or the Chairman of the Committee can give assurances to Members on this side of the House that the Bill includes exactly what was in Supplementary Estimates (D). Otherwise it is really a sham for the House to be operating on this basis without having the Bill before us. I hope you can give us that assurance, Mr. Chairman, because I am not sure that the Minister has a copy of the Bill either.

Mr. Mayer: Mr. Chairman, without trying to belabour the point, I have to agree with those sentiments. We are talking about a major expenditure of money. This is a very important issue which no one wants to delay. It is important that these appropriations be approved so that we can get the process under way.

I will give the Hon. Member whatever assurance I can that the Bill is in total conformity with the Supplementary Estimates as they were printed. I see no reason for anyone to doubt that, but to agree with what has been said, it would be much better for all of us, as far as the process is concerned, if we knew exactly what we are dealing with. It is a major and fundamental issue. I do not think anyone wants to delay it. Surely we should be able to have the proper paperwork done so that we can proceed in an orderly fashion.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Chairman, we obviously want to facilitate the passage of this legislation. I will accept the assurances of the Minister that the Bill is in conformity with the program and with the Supplementary Estimates. I will leave it to the Chairman to look more deeply into how we arrived at a situation in which we have no legislation but are between a rock and hard place in terms of allowing this legislation through the House.

The Deputy Chairman: I could rise and report progress of the Bill and then come back at three o'clock, have Hon. Members receive a copy of the Bill, and resume Committee of the Whole. If that is agreed, we will carry on in that way. Members have the assurance of the Minister that the Estimates are the same as the Bill. I am left to the discretion of Hon. Members.

Mr. Foster: I think we should complete the work of the committee at three o'clock.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Chairman, I think you have found a practical solution to a very difficult problem.

Mr. Hawkes: On the same point of order, Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to have some provision. I assume that when we recommence at three o'clock we would still be in Committee of the Whole. Would that be your intention, or have we gotten to the stage where the Bill is actually reported to the House and we are in report stage?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am rising to report progress of the Bill and that will finish it until three o'clock.

Mr. Hawkes: Can I assume, Mr. Chairman, that we would be in report stage so that if there was a problem with the actual appropriation Bill in that it deviated in some way, we would have a mechanism available at report stage, under unanimous consent, to correct a figure or some such small error and would move then immediately to third reading without debate if there were no such errors and would take a voice vote? Is that what the Opposition has in mind?

Mr. Foster: Mr. Chairman, that would be in conformity with my proposal that we report progress and return to Committee of the Whole when we have the Bill before us at three o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall I rise and report progress?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

The Deputy Chairman: It being one o'clock p.m. I do now rise until two o'clock this day.

At 1.07 p.m. the House took recess.