

Supplementary Estimates

ments to be made by hon. members or, at least, by spokesmen for each of the opposition parties. Advantage was of course taken of the occasion.

In the second place, we are now submitting these supplementary estimates regarding the particular matters under discussion to a standing committee of the House which is concerned with this particular subject. I suggest that by comparison with some of the proceedings in the Committee of the Whole in the past there is a much better opportunity provided to hon. members by way of reference to the standing committee of the House, under these arrangements, to examine, to criticize and to express views as to particular changes proposed in statutes.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is our decision to make.

Mr. Drury: I suggest it is a decision for the House to make, and the House has already made it.

• (2:50 p.m.)

It may not suit the convenience of the hon. member.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): When did the House make it?

Mr. Drury: I think the House made it, for example, by adopting a number of Appropriation Acts in the past. I hope it will reaffirm this by the adoption of the Appropriation Act in question. In anticipation of abolishing the committee of supply, explicit provision was made for opposition days during which only opposition members were free to raise in the House any question that in their view warranted or commanded public discussion.

In relation to this particular item we now have before us, before the end of the current fiscal year I understand there are a number of supply days left on which, in addition to the fullest discussion in the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, hon. members of the opposition, if they wish, may raise this issue and have it debated on the floor of this Chamber.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mainly with no decision.

Mr. Drury: The hon. gentleman complains about the lack of decision. This is a view with which I am unfortunately in agreement. One of our main problems is bringing the House to a decision on urgent matters.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is much better than having the government do so.

Mr. Drury: There has been too much lack of decision on the part of the House. In relation to this particular problem, and I think we are dealing with what is a marginal matter, I point out with regard to the schedules in the Pension Act that changes have been made by way of the Appropriation Acts in the years 1964, 1966 and 1968. Changes in the schedules to the War Veterans

[Mr. Drury.]

Allowance Act have been made by way of the Appropriation Acts in 1964 and 1966. This is not something new.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): But we have changed the rules since then.

Mr. Drury: I agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that we have changed the rules since the earlier cases. I suggest that by reason of the provision of supply days, which allow many occasions for discussion of these items at the opposition's choice on the floor of the House, with examination in detail of witnesses in standing committees of the House, we have really provided a more factual and deeper examination with less opportunity to conceal, if that is anybody's desire, than was the case.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You said it.

Mr. Drury: When supply was considered by the committee of supply, in what I think most hon. members would agree was too short a time for too big a subject, there was not the same opportunity for examination. I suggest that this particular reference to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs is entirely appropriate, and that the items as shown in the supplementary estimates are in order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, supported by the hon. member for Edmonton West, has brought up a most interesting and important point of order. I will wait until I have had an opportunity to study the arguments put forward by the hon. members and by the hon. minister before indicating to the House, in due course, my own views regarding the matter.

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SPORT

WINNING OF CANADIAN CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP BY MANITOBA RINK

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, at this time I should like to extend my congratulations, and I am sure the congratulations of all hon. members of the House, to the Don Duguid rink of Winnipeg on their accomplishment in winning for the second year in a row the Macdonald Briar tankard, emblematic of Canadian curling supremacy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Simpson: I am sure that the best wishes of all members go with Don Duguid, Rod Hunter, Jim Petapiece and Bryan Wood when they represent Canada next week at the world curling championship in France.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!