

*Business of Supply*

previous practice, that the minister has an opportunity following each statement either to make a very brief statement himself—and I mean brief—or to put a question for clarification purposes. In the case of the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings, he has referred to a number of interesting ideas and, quite frankly, I should like him to give the House an elaboration, particularly regarding one idea he put forward.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Chairman, on the point of order raised by the minister, the rules provide that each member may speak for 15 minutes. He can use this time to make a speech or to ask questions and receive answers. I have taken my 15 minutes to make a speech because I had some very valuable ideas to put before the minister. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the logical procedure would be that if the minister, as in any other debate, wants to say something about the ideas that are put forward by members on this side, then he should take one of the 15 minute slots provided to the government side, at whatever time he likes to do so, and use it as the 15 minutes allotted to him. As I understand it, the official opposition, on the proportion of time available, will get about four time slots, the Liberal party four time slots, and the other parties one or perhaps two. If the minister wants to take 15 minutes away from one of his own members, that is fine.

**Mr. Gillespie:** Let us be clear on this point, Mr. Chairman. These are my estimates. I have been asked by the House to defend these estimates and to answer the various points raised by hon. members. The hon. member from Prince Edward-Hastings has moved an amendment. It would be quite impossible for me to answer all of the various points that will be raised during this afternoon's debate if I am limited to 15 minutes at the end of the day. I ask for the indulgence of the committee that I at least be permitted to respond very briefly to each statement. I would think that is the practice of the House, and I should be recognized for that purpose when I stand following a speech such as the one made by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

**Mr. Hees:** On the point of order, the rules we are following were established—

**The Chairman:** Order, please. Perhaps we should hear the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre at this point; I will return to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, instead of spending a large chunk of the afternoon arguing over a point of order, why don't we follow the procedure laid down on the suggestion of the President of the Privy Council, on which you received the sense of the House, and that is that each member has 15 minutes to use as he wishes? The minister may say that these are his estimates, but this is an opposition day.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Lotbinière on a point of order.

[Mr. Gillespie.]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Chairman, I fully agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), and I do not see why today we should adopt a procedure different from that which was adopted under the procedures themselves.

[English]

**The Chairman:** There has been an agreement made. If the minister wishes to seek the floor at this time, he will be using his 15 minutes. If he wishes to seek the floor a second time, it will be after other members from the government side who wish to speak. That is in accordance with the agreement made for the debate on the transport estimates. In any case I feel that the minister should give it a try, and perhaps he can raise his point of order later since we are losing valuable time at this point. The minister cannot speak now without using up his 15 minutes. He could do so by unanimous consent, but there is no unanimous consent.

[Translation]

**Mr. Olivier:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

**The Chairman:** Order. Before I recognize the hon. member on a point of order, I would like to read the proposal put forward by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees).

[English]

It is moved by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings:

That Vote 1 of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce be reduced from \$67,157,000 to \$67,137,000.

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to prolong this procedural question. I just want to say that it was not my understanding that the minister would not be permitted to ask a question or to make a very brief reply. The second point I want to make on the point of order is that the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings knows that I have a senior and strong delegation from the U.S.S.R. in the city at the present time, and that I am in the middle of a mixed commission meeting with them. I have had to leave that mixed commission meeting. I shall have to leave the debate this afternoon at about four o'clock, but I shall return at very close to five o'clock. All I am saying is that this was known to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings—

**Mr. Hees:** That is right.

**Mr. Gillespie:**—and that it does seem to me that my rights as minister to defend my department have been seriously circumscribed.

**The Chairman:** Order. The minister can only blame himself because he was party to the agreement that was made.

[Translation]

**Mr. Olivier:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Longueuil on a point of order.

**Mr. Olivier:** Mr. Chairman, I do not accept at all the principle that the 15 minutes can be transferred to govern-