

During the 1960s the House of Commons found that the debate at the resolution stage frequently was repeated at the second-reading stage. Consequently, in December, 1968 it abolished its requirement that any bill which provided for statutory expenditure be introduced only after a resolution specifying the appropriation recommended by the Governor General had been adopted by the House. It changed its standing orders so that the recommendation would be given to the House, not in the form of a proposed resolution, but as a printed notice. The new standing order, the words of which have remained unchanged since 1968, reads as follows:

79(2) The message and recommendation of the Governor General in relation to any bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue or of any tax or impost shall be printed on the Notice Paper and in the *Votes and Proceedings* when any such measure is to be introduced and the text of such recommendation shall be printed with or annexed to every such bill.⁷

This standing order does not alter, indeed it could not alter, the requirement set forth in Section 54 of the *Constitution Act*; in fact, that section is set forth as S.O. 79(1). The words "such measure" in S.O. 79(2) refer to "any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue, or of any tax or impost,..." as found in S.O. 79(1). Consequently this new standing order, S.O. 79(2), simply changed the way the House of Commons receives and deals with a recommendation. Under it, a recommendation is put before the House, not as a proposed resolution to be debated and carried (or defeated), but as a notice. The new standing order does not state, nor does it imply, that the content of a recommendation is to be different from what was required before December, 1968.

Indeed, for several years after Standing Order 79(2) had been adopted, the message and recommendation of the Governor General in relation to a bill spelled out in detail the appropriation(s) in the bill. For example, Bill C-44, *An Act to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Salaries Act and the Parliamentary Secretaries Act*, was introduced in the House of Commons and given first reading on December 16, 1974. The message and recommendation of the Governor General in relation to this bill stated, in part:

His Excellency the Governor General recommends to the House of Commons a measure

(2) to amend the *Salaries Act* to increase the salary paid to the Prime Minister from \$25,000 to \$45,000 per annum; to increase the salaries paid to the Ministers listed in section 4 of the Act from \$15,000 to