

Introduction of Bills

estimates and, this being the case, the phase of the parliamentary authority which relates to the financial accountability of our work here, demands that when the estimates are referred to the standing committees they be examined there in a meaningful way, and that members ought not in any circumstances to be deprived of their right to carry out such an examination. However, it is not entirely clear that the Chair has a very direct line of authority, although I would think it at least has one of inquiry into the matter to determine whether or not there has been any difficulty. I would presume that those concerned with the management of business in the particular standing committees referred to would want to contribute to our discussion before I made any decision. I will certainly give them the chance to do so.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. MALONE—ROLE OF MINISTER OF NATIONAL REVENUE
VIS-À-VIS HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I rose to catch your eye during the question period today and my question would have been directed to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Guay) if he were not in the Senate. I would ask any of the ministers on the other side, since the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) is not in the House, who is the minister in charge of Revenue Canada? This is just in case I should catch your eye at some future date.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I believe that question was answered yesterday.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Not satisfactorily.

Mr. Hogan: If the answer was given yesterday, would the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) please repeat it so that we might know to whom we can direct questions?

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING TIME PERIOD COVERING ELECTION
EXPENSES

Mr. Jim Balfour (Regina East) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-446, to amend the Canada Elections Act (election expense period).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Balfour: Mr. Speaker, this bill is in response to reports that some candidates nominated for the next federal election have already spent as much as \$50,000 on pre-election campaigning. Although such expenditures are currently unrestricted

[Mr. Speaker.]

ed, this spending is in clear violation of the spirit of the Election Expenses Act which attempts to make campaigning fairer by imposing ceilings on campaign expenditures. By extending the time during which election expenses are deemed to have been incurred to include the period following a candidate's nomination but before an election writ has been issued, this bill recognizes that in practice election campaigning begins long before elections are called. The effect of the bill would be to close a loophole in our election procedures.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING GARNISHMENT PROCEEDINGS

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-49, to amend the Financial Administration Act (Garnishment).

He said: Mr. Speaker, checking the authorities I find it is appropriate for me to rise on a point of order at this point inasmuch as this bill involves a matter of the Crown's prerogative, and to point out to the House, after leave is granted and before first reading, that His Excellency the Governor General has been informed of the purport of this bill, and has given his consent as far as Her Majesty's prerogatives are affected to the consideration by parliament of the bill, that parliament may do therein as it thinks fit.

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I do not rise to question what the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) has said. I think the procedure he has felt bound to follow today is one which might appropriately be followed hereafter with respect to government bills generally so that there would be no need for us to wait for press statements and so on. I think a short summary from ministers with respect to their bills is just as important as a short summary from private members on such occasions.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. MALONE—ROLE OF MINISTER OF NATIONAL REVENUE
VIS-À-VIS HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Further to my point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have checked through *Hansard* for yesterday and I find nothing in there which indicates who speaks on behalf of Revenue Canada. I wish to raise a series of questions with whoever is responsible and again I ask, who is the minister?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) is correct. The matter was dealt with and an answer was given by