

Supply—Finance

bring these to the attention of the house. The allegation is that civil servants are threatened by ministers, and the member of parliament appearing on television said this has been done. I refer to the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Howard), who said—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Faulkner in the chair.

Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Chairman—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Crouse: Let us have parliament according to the rules.

An hon. Member: Do not threaten the Speaker.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): Where is the President of the Privy Council?

The Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

The Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Chairman, may I suggest that the committee might rise and report progress for the purpose of hearing the hon. member's question of privilege?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

The Chairman: Order, please. The correct procedure is for the minister to move the motion, give it to me in writing, and allow me to put it to the committee.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order, a very simple one. Is it appropriate for the committee of supply to go back into the whole house on a move which, in effect, is a reflection on Mr. Speaker's judgment? Mr. Speaker left the chair, feeling that the matter then before the house was disposed of. I suggest we have no right to reflect on Mr. Speaker by going back into the house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond).]

Mr. Hees: The government house leader wants to be the Speaker, too.

The Chairman: Order, please. I appreciate the point of order raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, but I think that the Chair has no option in the matter except to put the motion.

An hon. Member: Was Mr. Speaker threatened?

Mr. Lundrigan: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. About 15 minutes before the truth was exposed in the house I indicated to Mr. Speaker that I would be rising on a point of privilege at the end of the question period to bring to the attention of the house a matter that pertains to the fact that our economy is going on the rocks. I bowed to Mr. Speaker's decision when he said that this could wait. At the same time I do not wish it to be thought I am relinquishing my position or the privilege of bringing up the same point on another day.

An hon. Member: Bring it up.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Chairman, I think the government house leader and hon. members supporting the government are abusing their majority. In the interest of decorum and of proceeding in an orderly and proper manner I think the members of the government ought to accept the opprobrium of not proceeding in this matter.

Mr. Trudeau: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for simplifying the whole problem, but I think it has grown and become a little out of proportion.

Mr. Lewis: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: I do not think we should accept the opprobrium, as the Leader of the Opposition says. It is a matter of elementary fairness. A particular point of privilege was raised; I do not think it is too important. I would be prepared to concede, if it would help the debate, that sometimes members do threaten their ministers in caucus. I do not think that is a very serious matter. The only relevant point is that Mr. Speaker did not catch the eye, I think, of the hon. member who had been put under an accusation and I think, in fairness, he should have been given a chance to answer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.