

*Interim Supply*

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair has recognized the point of order. I understand that this is a pro forma bill.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Honey in the chair.

Clauses 2 to 5 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 6—

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Chairman, I apologize because I do not possess a thorough knowledge of the Standing Orders of the House. If we are not entitled to debate the matter, why is it submitted to us?

[English]

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I would mention to the hon. member that there is no provision for debate.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Chairman, I apologize for renewing my attempt but, considering your vast experience and your extensive knowledge of the procedure, I would like you to explain to me, at this point, what are my rights as an elected member of the House. As a matter of fact, how can I know what these votes mean if I am not allowed to discuss them? I would like to know my rights in order to use them constructively.

[English]

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I might mention, in reply to the question of the hon. member, that the Standing Order is very long. I do not think hon. members would want me to read it at this point. I would refer the hon. member and the House to Standing Order 58(10) which provides for no debate at this stage of the proceedings.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Chairman, I wish to protest strongly against this type of democracy which prevents us from discussing votes that the government is asking us to pass.

[English]

**The Chairman:** Order, please. As the Chair has indicated to the hon. member, it is not a question of discretion of the Chair or discretion of hon. members: it is a Standing Order adopted by this House. At this stage of the proceedings there is no provision for debate. I again refer the hon. member to Standing Order 58(10). I do not want to burden hon. members by reading it at this time. There is no provision for debate, under this Standing Order. With respect, the Chair has no discretion to hear the hon. member.

**An hon. Member:** What is the Standing Order?

**The Chairman:** Order, please. The Chair has previously indicated that there is no discretion in the Chair to hear the hon. member. The Standing Order to which I have

[Mr. Fortin.]

referred provides that the question be put without debate. Standing Order 58(10) reads:

—he shall put forthwith successively, without debate or amendment—

If the hon. member has a question of privilege or point of order to raise, it cannot be done at this point. There may be another opportunity when the hon. member may be able to do this, but not at this point of the proceedings.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Schedules A to D inclusive agreed to.

On clause 1—

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I recognize that Your Honour has correctly interpreted the Standing Order with respect to our proceedings at this point, but there is one point that should be observed. For many years when we were asked to vote interim supply, we were always given an assurance by the minister proposing the bill that the bill was in proper form and, furthermore, that the passing of interim supply would not prejudice our rights to discuss in the proper place any of the items, portions of which are granted in advance. I think that assurance should continue to be given to us.

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Chairman, I am glad to give the assurance that the bill is in the usual form and indeed is in proper order. Further, the passing of this bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of members to criticize any items in the estimates when they come up for consideration in committee. The usual undertaking is given that such rights and privileges will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

● (10:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Peters:** On a point of order, before we pass clause 1 I ask whether hon. members who have not been handed a copy of the bill, and who thus have had no opportunity of seeing its contents, should be asked to pass it. I am aware that this has been the practice for the past two or three years.

**Mr. Drury:** Centuries.

**Mr. Peters:** No, not for centuries. We have discussed the business of supply ad nauseam since I have been here.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Peters:** If I said anything in a foreign language which is not correct, I apologize. It seems to me we should refer this question to the Standing Committee on Procedure, because this is a really idiotic manner of handling the operation.

**The Chairman:** Order, please. The hon. member may have a very good argument, but I respectfully suggest