

Mr. Chairman, are probably one of the oldest authorities on parliamentary procedure in this House, and I think you will decide that the point taken by the honourable member from Halifax was well taken.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether the honourable senator from Halifax raised a point of order.

Hon. Mr. TESSIER: No, he did not raise it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think perhaps it would be as well to discuss the point whenever an amendment is proposed.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: Do I understand that the point of order has been raised?

Some Hon. SENATORS: No.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: Did the honourable member raise a point of order?

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: I asked the opinion of the Chairman as to whether we were in order in proceeding to the consideration of this Bill when we had no power to consider it.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: That is a point of order.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: Is that to be taken as a point of order?

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: Yes.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: Because, if the Chairman gives only an opinion, he is not ruling on the question; that is why I want to know whether a point of order is taken or not.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: If I understand the honourable senator from Halifax, he is asking a ruling on the point whether this Senate can amend this Bill or not.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: There is no point of order taken. There is nothing before the Chair but the Bill. If no amendment is made, there is no need of putting a question to the Chair.

Hon. Mr. POWER: I do not take quite the same view as the honourable gentlemen from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) with respect to the question asked by my honourable colleague from Halifax. We should not be too technical, and I think that practically he has raised a question of order. I say this with all deference to the authority behind me (Hon. Mr. Cloran), who has stated that the Senate must either accept the Bill as a whole or reject it as a whole. I do not undertake to decide that question; I think probably

the Senate would have the right to make amendments in the Bill; but the point is that after we have gone through the Bill the Senate may conclude that it should not be passed at all, but that we should throw it out. Without going through the Bill we cannot find out what its character is.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: This House is not limited to the two courses mentioned, namely, of accepting the Bill in toto or rejecting it in toto. I think there is another course, that is, to offer to the Commons any amendments that commend themselves to the judgment of this honourable House. Any such amendment of Bills of this kind should be accompanied with a special message acknowledging that this House has no right to force upon the House of Commons an amendment, but rather offering it as a suggestion for their consideration. In acting in that way we are within the spirit and the letter of the law.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: More than one decision has already been given on that point, and the purport of the bulk of those decisions was that the Senate had no right to amend any money Bill; Yet the Senate by its vote reversed those decisions and asserted the contrary opinion. Honourable gentlemen will not find in any Parliamentary law anything that would prevent us from offering amendments, but it is the privilege of the House of Commons not to accept them. As was stated on one occasion by the honourable senator, from Halifax, we are not bound to diminish our authority here. Let us take as much as we can, and if we are called to order by the decision of the House of Commons, it will be our duty to withdraw our amendments or reject the Bill altogether. Therefore I think we may venture to offer all the amendments possible, and the House of Commons will be within their strict rights if they refuse those amendments, as they are not obliged to accept any amendment of a money Bill coming from this House. That, in my opinion, is sufficient to prevent us from pressing our amendments, but we may make them under the rulings I have mentioned.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Does the honourable gentleman suggest that we should make certain amendments and send them down with the Bill that we will have passed?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: We have liberty to thresh out the Bill, and if the House of