

Excise Tax Act

that up. I do not want that on the record. I went out. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton is fully aware of that. He should not have suggested that I acted wrongly.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Chairman, I rise on the same point of order. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton asked a question, namely, whether certain members were included in the vote.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): That is all.

Mr. Benjamin: He named certain members who, in his opinion, were not in the chamber on time for the vote. At no time did the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton claim that they tried to vote improperly. He only asked if they were counted. I want to verify whether the hon. member for Ottawa Centre and the hon. member for Saint-Denis were included in the vote. In my opinion, they were not in the chamber in time for the vote. I ask the same question of the Clerk, through you, Mr. Chairman, whether those two members were included in the vote. That is all.

[Translation]

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

The Chairman: The hon. member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) on a point of order.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Chairman, I do not understand at all the unbelievable nervousness of the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin). When you put the question, he was looking at you. I was then speaking with the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) in the fifth row. Casually, the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre seems to apply what is called one law for one's friends and another for one's foes. He does not object to the vote of the hon. member for Champlain, with whom I was speaking in the corner of the House, since the latter voted in the same way as he did. He does not oppose to his vote, but to mine, because I was supposed to be on the other side. But he is perfectly aware of the fact that we are allowed to sit anywhere. He does not object to the vote of his colleague for Champlain, with whom, I repeat it, I was speaking. Mr. Speaker, I think we should certainly proceed with more serious things and stop playing games.

● (1530)

[English]

Mr. Alexander: I think the confusion arose because of members who will not stand clear of the curtains. I am not pointing a finger at anyone, but if this ball game is to be played the way it should be, members on both sides will have to stand back from the curtains so as not to confuse the Clerks at the Table. In this way we may be able to expedite the passage of this bill—I understand there is some semblance of an agreement—

Mr. Peters: Oh!

Mr. Alexander: All right, then. I will cancel that statement. But surely we can now proceed to the consideration of the bill.

[Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton).]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Chairman, it was imputed to me that I had said that certain members I had named were absent. I did not say they were absent. If I did, I would apologize to those members. What I did was to ask whether their votes had been counted. If there was any statement made as to the absence of those members it came from the hon. member for Ottawa-Centre. I was careful not to use the word absent. But, of course, now it is out.

The Chairman: Order. The question has been aired long enough. All members are aware that when we are in committee of the whole members are not identified while a count is being taken. The Clerk who took the count assures me that the only members he counted were the ones who were clearly within the confines of the chamber. He did not count any who were behind the curtains. This leads me to conclude that only those who were in the chamber at the time the vote was called were counted.

It is, of course, difficult for the Chair to see what is happening on both sides of the committee at the same time, and if hon. members come in after a question has been put it is not easy to identify them. This brings me to the point I wish to make.

I realize we do not very often sit in committee of the whole, but hon. members might take time once in a while to read Standing Order 12(2) which says that when the Chair is putting a question no member shall enter, walk out, or cross the floor of the House, or make any noise or disturbance. We have had all of this. I am not talking only about coming into the House. I am talking about noise and disturbance. This does not help the Chair and it does not help the proceedings of the committee. I might add that those members who were behind the curtains and who, by bending over, did not help the Clerk to count the votes, making it more difficult for him, are to be blamed.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): On the point of order, Mr. Chairman—

Some hon. Members: Enough!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):—about those two who came in after the vote was called, it is distinctly my impression, sitting where I am, that the hon. member for Mississauga came in and was counted.

The Chairman: Order. A ruling has been made, the amendment has been defeated, and I am now putting the question on clause 1.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I put another question to the Minister of Finance with respect to the wording of clause 1? I have in mind in particular the last four words, "other than aircraft engines". Could the minister explain the meaning of this to me? I take it to mean that gasoline which is used in airplanes is not subject to this ten cents a gallon tax. I can understand that this might as well be the case as far as commercial airlines are concerned because if they pay the tax they would be able to obtain a rebate since they are operating a commercial or business enterprise. But I should like to ask whether this also applies to the private owners of small aircraft. I suspect there are certain persons who use their aircraft