

the Government's amendments be accepted by unanimous agreement, that this could be done? I think that is the sense of what we want to do.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair is in some procedural difficulty. I think everybody knows that. Would the House allow a suspension of five minutes, if that is possible, while the Chair tries to see if it can resolve this matter.

At 3.18 p.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

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SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 3.22 p.m.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I advise the House that I have totally and inadvertently misled the House with regard to at least the initial amendments of the Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) which I have had a second chance to review. I misunderstood the word I was getting from my Table officers. They were trying to tell me that at least the first six motions of the Hon. Member for York South—Weston are procedurally in order. Having examined the first six, I propose to allow them. We will have to come back to the rest after we have examined them. That is the only way in which the Chair can proceed in order to determine for certain that the motions are in order.

The Government's three motions technically reach beyond the scope of the Act and go into the parent Bill. The Chair would normally have to find those motions inadmissible. When the Chair is presented with the consent of the Opposition Parties to avoid requiring the Government to present a band new Bill, it does not make a lot of sense to go the whole route one more time when there is a willingness to do something which would otherwise be possible simply by taking a different route, if the House follows me. I therefore propose to seek unanimous consent to allow the motions on the Order Paper standing in the name of the Government to be put to the House. Is there such consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Given the nature of the amendments and the consent, I propose to allow the three Government motions to be put.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to have clarification on this point. Are you telling the House that, in relation to the Government's amendments, if there is consent among the Parties to allow a government motion to be introduced like this to avoid starting the process again and reintroducing a Bill, this type of action could take place exclusively in the House at report stage, or could also be entertained at committee at the time of the study of the legislation there?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member is asking me to rule on a matter I have not been asked to consider. I do not think I can do that. He is asking me to enter into an extrapolation or

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*obiter dicta* of what I have just done which was an attempt, in this set of circumstances at this moment in time, to try to resolve a problem the House seems to want resolved. The Chair cannot answer what flows from that in other circumstances and situations.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I have in mind what happened with Bill C-91. In that case the Government was to amend a clause of the parent Bill in order to do away with reference to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. That amendment was ruled out of order in committee and was reintroduced at report stage by the Government when it was also ruled out of order by the Chair. It was impossible to do this because of that decision. Indeed, I welcome this new decision by the Chair—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member knows the Chair's view about treating what I have just said as a ruling and then trying to extrapolate from that to other circumstances. The Chair certainly cannot do that. The Hon. Member may have an opinion as to what that means, but the Chair is not saying whether it agrees or disagrees with the Member. The Chair has ruled these motions out of order. Let us be clear. The Chair is faced with an apparent unanimous desire of the House, which is master of its own destiny, that the House be allowed to consider those motions. The Chair regards itself as the servant of the whole House. In the situation, which we just faced, the Chair understood the will of the House and tried therefore to follow it. The Chair cannot go beyond that in any way with regard to a committee.

The Hon. Member is now indulging in a conversation with the Chair which puts the Chair in a difficulty, unless the Member is refusing unanimous consent.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I respect your advice and ruling. I will leave the House to allow unanimous consent.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps when I am out of the Chair later the Hon. Member will come and see me and we can discuss this further. I suspect he will want to.

Unless there is some other disposition, I propose to put the three motions which are on the Order Paper in the order in which they are listed. We will then come to the motions of the Hon. Member for York South—Weston, by which time I should be able to comment further on Motion No. 7 and beyond.

**Mr. Lewis:** It is possibly already being done, but would it not be in order to suggest that the motions of my hon. colleague be reproduced and distributed?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is an excellent suggestion. I presume that is being done.

**Mr. Fennell:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is being done.

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (for the Solicitor General of Canada)** moved: