Canada Elections Act

However, so that we can plan the work of the House, I wonder if there is unanimous consent to go forward in due ...me with motions Nos. 6, 13, 15 and 16 proposed by the minister.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, call them one at a time, please, and start with motion No. 1 as suggested.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is a matter requiring unanimous consent. The question could be put later.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, do I not have unanimous consent to put those motions? If that is the decision, that is the end of the motions. I have sought consent.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member's words are being slightly twisted. He did not say no unanimous consent, ever; he said no unanimous consent, now. He suggested that we call them one at a time. My hope is that when we reach motions Nos. 6, 13, 15 and 16, there might at that point be unanimous consent. The hon. member is nodding his head. I think I have stated it correctly.

Mr. Dick: Absolutely correctly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Trinity has put down a motion and the Chair has indicated that motion No. 1 goes beyond the scope of the clause it is intended to amend. Unless the hon. member can argue the point successfully, the Chair will not change its mind. I invite the hon. member to comment.

Miss Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I will make my argument very brief. Since clause 9 of Bill C-5 seeks to amend section 13 of the Canada Elections Act, my argument is that since section 13 has been opened up, it should be possible to make the amendment I have proposed.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak on the same point of order, the hon. member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) discussed this point in committee and at that time she was having some difficulty as to how she might word her motion. When I saw it, I thought, as Your Honour has pointed out, that it might be in violation of the rules. I think the hon. member feels strongly on this point, I know there will be a very brief discussion on the point she wants to raise. If we are going to give unanimous consent later on some things, I think it behooves us to give unanimous consent to the hon. member for Trinity, because this matter is very important to her. I would certainly be willing to give my consent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is not the prerogative of the Chair to deem that there is unanimous consent. I refer the hon. member for Trinity to page 521 of May's where it says:

An amendment which is out of order on any of the following grounds cannot be proposed from the chair:

(1) An amendment is out of order if it is irrelevant to the subject matter or beyond the scope of the bill, or if it is irrelevant to the subject matter or beyond the scope of the clause under consideration.

I remind the hon. member that section 13 in its entirety is not before this House. Only that portion of section 13 of the act which is being amended by this bill is before the House at this time, and in no way will the foregoing citation permit me to put the hon. member's motion to the House.

The argument made by the hon, member defeats her own point. She tried to convince the Chair that she wants to amend a part of the act which is not before the House in Bill C-5 which we are studying. I cannot accept the hon, member's amendment.

Following the suggestion made by the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. Dick), I will now ask whether there is unanimous consent to put the next motion to the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Dick: The minister said "No."

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the hon, member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Since the Chair has declared motion No. 1 out of order on account of some irregularities. I remember two years ago a case in the House of Commons concerning the report stage of Bill C-52 amending the Pension Act. At that time, the Chair, despite many misgivings, had seriously considered all views and ruled that the amendment presented under a motion numbered so and so was not in order and that it was not possible to put it to the House.

The Speaker had then ruled the amendment out of order and we could not go further. Now on the basis of such precedent, I think that the situation today is absolutely similar to that of two years ago and I support the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I thank the hon. member for his comments and I will now call motions Nos. 2, 4 and 14. [*English*]

These three motions are to be debated together, and a vote on motion No. 2 will dispose of all three motions. These three motions are in the name of the hon. member for York East (Mr. Collenette).

An hon. Member: Where is he?

Hon. Norman A. Cafik (for Mr. Collenette) moved:

Motion No. 2.

That Bill C-5, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act, be amended in clause 10 by striking out line 19 at page 14 and substituting the following therefor:

"agent of a registered party".