

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the point of order I wish to raise applies even if only two of the motions are to be put, and that point of order relates to the taking of the vote, if votes are asked for on these amendments. I think it would be the wish of the House, and I think it is probably a wish shared by both sides on this debate, that votes come at a time when we would all know about them. In view of the fact that there is provision in Standing Order 75 for Your Honour to defer the taking of a vote, if a vote is asked for, when the report stage of an amendment has been concluded, I wonder if it could be understood that all of the votes at report stage of the amendments would be deferred to an agreed time.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Mr. Speaker, may I speak to that?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Northumberland-Durham.

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, I am in a somewhat embarrassing position this afternoon because, not knowing what your Honour's intentions were and being well down on the list of amendments, I had assumed in the event that you did accept the amendment of the hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Morin), as I hoped you would, and that you would find it in order, as you have, we would then proceed with the debate on that amendment first of all. I am rather horrified at a quarter to three on a Friday afternoon in July to find that perhaps we may be proceeding with my amendment.

May I suggest that if all members want to facilitate the debate and the taking of the votes in respect of this fairly controversial measure, we not accede to the request of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), simply on the following ground. The taking of the vote on the amendment of the hon. member for Louis-Hébert, when it comes, would be an indication to some of us who have intentions in respect of other amendments. If by any means we voted on the hon. member's amendment and, for instance, that amendment were lost, then we might save a great deal of time in respect of the debate and the subsequent taking of the vote in regard to the first amendment standing in my name.

I would therefore say to you, Sir, and I understand this is an exercise of the Chair's discretion alone, that in opposition to what you have just heard from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, we might proceed with the amendment standing in the name of the hon. member for Louis-Hébert. If that is permitted to stand, I think I should have the privilege of permitting my initial amendment to stand. I think it will save time and it will save discussion—I hope I am making my point clear—if we have the vote at the end of every question at the time those amendments are put.

Perhaps I could resolve the difficulty that we may be in now by asking Your Honour to stand the first amendment standing in my name, and perhaps we could proceed with a discussion on whether No. 11, standing in my name, might be in order. Of course, I should like to speak in relation to that.

### *Capital Punishment*

**Mr. Speaker:** My understanding is that we have been asked to stand motion No. 2, but the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham would prefer to proceed with this motion. After we have had a debate on motion No. 2, which I think is reasonable, the suggestion of the hon. member is that we should dispose of motion No. 2 before we attempt to dispose of motion No. 3. I am in agreement with this.

The Chair would not want to take advantage of the Standing Orders to impose his wishes or suggestions on hon. members. This leads us at this time to consideration of the procedural point relating to the hon. member's motion No. 11. I would certainly be grateful for advice from the hon. member or other members of the House in respect of the procedural acceptability of this proposed motion.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Mr. Speaker, at the risk of talking too much this afternoon, I shall attempt to be quite brief on this one as well. First of all, as you indicated in your ruling on the amendments which you declared out of order a short while ago, the principle of this bill is related not to capital murder but to capital punishment. I think that is important.

My amendment relates strictly to the form of execution in the event that the penalty of capital punishment is imposed. I do not want to get into the merits or demerits of the case, but I cannot resist the temptation to say that in my belief the actual form of execution in this country at the moment, namely, hanging, is an extremely archaic, medieval way of imposing the ultimate punishment, capital punishment, on anyone.

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** I would think if we are going to have capital punishment in this country, then it certainly should be carried out in a far more humane manner than it now is. This is the purpose of the amendment. I know, sir, that you do not want me to get into the argument on the merits or demerits of the actual amendment, and I am trying to resist that. I must point out to the House and to you, if I may, that my understanding of the procedures—and believe me, I have studied them in another capacity before coming here—in regard to execution in this country is that sedatives are administered, or have been in the past, to people who are going to have the sentence of hanging imposed upon them.

The form of this amendment would permit, by regulation, the government of the day to indicate a far more humane, sensible, sane and less cruel way of imposing capital punishment. It is on that basis, and because it falls within the principle of the bill as you enunciated it not more than ten minutes ago, namely, capital punishment and not capital murder, that the amendment was brought about. Sir, you have indicated that there are some doubts in your mind as to whether this amendment really is in order. I would assume, if I may be so presumptuous, that the mental processes of the Chair, for simplification purposes, would run along the lines that there was no mention made in the original bill of the form of execution; this amendment comes along now to attempt to lay down a