

Government Orders

I want it recorded. I want it very clearly recorded that I did not consent to have this dispensed with.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, when the Chair originally sought unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the motion, it was clear at that point that it was not the intention of a large number of members in the House. It seemed to me, that in the same spirit—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Riis: I am sorry, I stand to be corrected, only the members of the New Democratic Party, and I think there were some independent members as well, indicated that they wanted to clearly hear the motion read by the Speaker. Obviously the intention of the House was clear at that time and I think it would be inappropriate for you, on the point of order that was raised by my hon. friend, to not give at least a moment to ensure that in fact unanimous consent was not given.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am prepared to hand down my ruling. First of all, I must confess I recognized the hon. member for Saint-Maurice although he was not in his seat, and I should not have given him the floor, since this is against our Standing Orders, and furthermore, I am not sure I heard no “nays”. Of course, when in doubt, I am supposed to give the other person the benefit of the doubt—in that case, I would prefer to stick to the *status quo* and continue reading the motion, or has the House decided to give its unanimous consent?

[English]

Does the House give unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, we have been enjoying your reading of the motion, noticing of course that to date virtually all of the motion has been read in French. I am assuming that at the conclusion of the motion being read in French, that you or others will then read the motion in English, as per Standing Order 65.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I think the Chair has made it clear that unless the House—as you know, the Speaker is the servant of the House, but it is

possible—since the House is the master of its own proceedings—for the House to give its consent to dispense. However, unless otherwise directed, the Chair intends to apply the Standing Orders and read, in both official languages, the motion before the House.

(2) Without anticipating the decision of the House, within five sitting days after the commencement of debate on second reading of a bill which is to be referred to a legislative committee, the Speaker shall appoint a Chairman to the said committee for the study of the said bill, from the Panel of Chairmen established pursuant to Standing Order 112 for that envelope.

(3) Any legislative committee to which a bill has been referred pursuant to Standing Order 73(2) shall meet within two sitting days after the adoption of the motion for the second reading and reference to the legislative committee of the bill.”

52. That sections 113(5) and 113(6) of the Standing Orders be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

“(5) Any legislative committee shall be empowered to examine and enquire into the bills referred to it by the House, to report the same with or without amendments, and except when the House otherwise orders, to send for officials from government departments and agencies and crown corporations and for other persons whom the committee deems to be competent to appear as witnesses on technical matters, to send for papers and records, to sit when the House is sitting, to sit when the House stands adjourned, and to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it.

(6) Any legislative committee may delegate to a subcommittee on agenda and procedure, its power to schedule meetings of the committee and to call for officials from government departments and agencies and crown corporations and for other persons whom the committee deems competent to appear before it as witnesses on technical matters, or to send for papers and records to be presented to the committee in relation to the bill before the committee, provided that the committee shall retain the power to approve such arrangements.”

53. That sections 114(1), 114(2) and 114(3) of the Standing Orders be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

“114.(1) The membership of legislative, standing and joint committees shall be set out in the report of the Standing Committee on House Management, which shall prepare lists of Members in accordance with Standing Orders 104 and 113(1). Once the report of the committee is concurred in, the membership shall continue from session to session within a Parliament, subject to such changes as may be effected from time to time.

(2)(a) Within five sitting days of the organization of any legislative, standing or standing joint committee, and from time to time thereafter, every member of every such committee shall file with the clerk of the committee a list of not more than seven Members selected from Members of his or her own party in the envelope to which that committee has been assigned, who may substitute for him or her during a meeting of the said committee, according to the