

has apparently been accepted by the learned authority. It reads as follows:

The question being proposed "That the Final Report of the Select Standing (or Special) Committee on...be now concurred in,"

Mr. ... moves in amendment thereto, seconded by Mr. ...," "That the said Report be not now concurred in but that it be recommitted to the Select Standing (or Special) Committee on...with instruction that they have power to amend the same so as to recommend that—

This conforms to citation 322 which says that the house may recommit a report to a committee with instructions that they have power to amend the same so as to make recommendations.

● (4:50 p.m.)

Your Honour has either to make that choice or to accept the terms of an amendment which gives mandatory direction to the committee and under which freedom is taken away entirely from the committee. If this is the kind of procedure which the house contemplates when dealing with select or standing committees, their proceedings will be reduced to a travesty. If the government or any of its supporters wish to move the type of amendment which is acceptable to the house, all they have to do is turn to page 397 for a model. Anything which does not resemble this should not be accepted by Your Honour or by the house.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I thank hon. members for their contributions to the discussion. I have in fact done some preliminary research in anticipation that this matter might be raised. The arguments put forward by the hon. member for Peace River and by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre raise points which need to be considered very carefully, but I suggest that there are citations other than those they have chosen which are categorical on this important question.

First, I should like to refer to the decision of Mr. Speaker Rhodes as found in Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, third edition, at page 690:

When a motion is made for the adoption of a report of a committee it is competent for the House to adopt it, to reject it, or to refer it back to the committee with or without instructions.

A citation which is probably more relevant and more particular, and one which in this particular case I have to treat as decisive in deciding this question, is Beauchesne's citation 326 as it appears on page 252:

The report of a Standing Committee should be considered final only when it is adopted by the

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House, because, until then, the House can refer it back to the committee with instruction to amend it in any particular.

I am therefore obliged to rule that the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce is in order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) has at least scored one point today. I found it difficult to believe my ears when I listened to his speech in this debate. If the leader of the house ever had any doubt about the significance of this day I am sure he was convinced, having heard the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, that this was really April Fool's day.

The hon. member made a number of points to which too much attention should probably not be paid because I am sure the house did not take them seriously. One of the points he made was particularly unfortunate, however, because I am sure he did not wish to leave the wrong impression on the record. He suggested that the committee's report did not reflect the true recommendation of the committee. I can only believe that the hon. member reached this conclusion because he was absent on the night the report was drafted. Otherwise, there is no accounting for the fact that notwithstanding his absence nine of his hon. friends in the Liberal party were present. Those members were very diligent members of the committee during its tour of the Atlantic provinces and, like all other members of the committee, they worked very hard in studying all the transportation needs of the Atlantic provinces as well as on the preparation of the preliminary report which is now being disputed by the leader of the house and the hon. member who are seeking to have it sent back to the committee.

This is not the first occasion on which this matter has been raised in this chamber. We tried earlier, in the course of the preparation of the second report of the standing committee. Concurrence in that report was moved in the house, but it did not contain one resolution which had been approved by the majority of the committee. That resolution, which was adopted by the committee on November 28 prior to the preparation of the second report, was not at all dissimilar from the second recommendation of the fifth report of the standing committee with which the leader