

Auditor General Act

would still require the definition of a Crown corporation and of a subsidiary.

Mr. Baldwin: I have one.

Mr. Andras: Well, that would mean more legislation. I really think that the good arguments which have been employed should be left until we bring forward amendments to the Financial Administration Act. There is a good deal of work still to be done there to clear up misunderstandings and bring the definitions up to date, including the whole question of the relationship between Crown corporations and subsidiaries, the degree of ownership and control, and so on. So although I understand what the hon. member is getting at, I feel strongly that amendments should be left until we bring the other bill before the House. The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) rose on a point of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I do not think I can allow the minister to speak a second time on the motion. The hon. member for Peace River asked a question, to which I assumed he was expecting a brief reply, "Yes" or "No." The minister cannot speak a second time without consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the House consent to allow the minister to speak a second time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I have completed my comments on subparagraph (a). I shall not comment on subparagraph (b) because there seems to be a hung jury, anyway. But since I am not prepared to accommodate the hon. member with regard to (a) and (c), I suppose (b) will have to stand or fall in accordance with the decision of the House.

I would point out, though, that we have made refusal of information progressively tougher. The auditor general may request it, and if he is not given it he may direct his inquiry to the governor in council. Let us not forget that if the governor in council does not proceed by way of its discretionary powers under this clause, the auditor general, by virtue of other clauses, will have authority to make the decision public in the House. I think we shall stay with an arrangement which has been thoroughly discussed with the Auditor General and with the Wilson committee which looked directly into this area.

Mr. Baldwin: I do not have the same confidence in government counsel as you have.

● (1730)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is now on motion No. 6 in the name of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

[Mr. Andras.]

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

Some hon. Members: On division.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I declare the motion lost.
Motion No. 6 (Mr. Baldwin) negatived.

Mr. Alan Martin (Scarborough West) moved:

Motion No. 7.

That Bill C-20, An Act respecting the office of the Auditor General of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto, be amended in Clause 14 by adding immediately after line 11 at page 6 the following new subclause:

"(2) The Auditor General or his representative is entitled to receive notice of every meeting of the Audit Committee of a Crown corporation and to attend and be heard thereat."

and by renumbering the subsequent subclause accordingly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to section 11 to Standing Order 75, the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

If hon. members will allow the Chair to inquire whether there is a decision ready on motions Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, we could have the decision quickly.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), would have been here by now, but his plane must have been delayed or something. Is it possible to proceed