

Northern Canada Power Commission Act

moved at the report stage by the hon. member which does only one thing, and upon which he has given notice.

The hon. member's motion No. 3 seeks to replace the word governor with the word commissioner and, by my interpretation of Standing Order 75(5), the fact that the hon. member did propose such a limited and a restricted amendment he also precluded other members from moving amendments to his motion. But the Chair cannot get into this question because I know that on some occasions the hon. member himself, and other hon. members, might prepare amendments or motions for the purpose of preventing other members from moving amendments or subamendments to them.

I do not feel that Standing Order 75(5) is restrictive. It is up to the initiative and the will of hon. members to try to attach in their own way amendments to motions, or subamendments to amendments, but they have to do it within the confines of the rules. The rules under which we proceed at this time are quite explicit, and they require hon. members to give notice.

● (2030)

Returning to my first point, the one that the hon. member seemed to agree with generally as to the question of relevancy, he will have to admit that, his proposal being so limited, providing for a change from the word governor to the word commissioner, then the proposal made as an amendment by the hon. member for Moose Jaw is completely outside that proposition. Of course the Chair also has to ask himself whether the hon. member for Yukon would have the same opinion if the hon. member for Moose Jaw had proposed the words "the House of Commons" instead of a public utilities board. The Chair is not here to judge whether the hon. member for Yukon is satisfied with the amendment which is proposed.

To my mind the amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for Moose Jaw is completely foreign to the motion that is before the House at this time. Of course it is not foreign to the bill, and the hon. member for Moose Jaw had all the latitude and all the time that any hon. member had to put his proposal forward under Standing Order 75(5) by giving 24 hours' notice. His proposition would thus be before the House, and the House would make a decision. But to try to force the Chair into creating a precedent by the use of an amendment to a motion, thus bringing in a completely new matter which is no less than a substitute proposition to delete the basic proposition, and the only proposition which is included in the motion would, I think, create a bad precedent. At the same time I wonder if the motion proposed by the hon. member for Moose Jaw is not also in anticipation of motion No. 4 which will be coming before the House later.

Because of all these considerations I find it very difficult to follow the points raised by the hon. member for Yukon. I can refer him to many precedents, the latest being a decision by the hon. member for Beauharnois-Salaberry (Mr. Laniel) who was occupying the chair in the House of Commons on December 17, 1973. I am sure if the hon. member takes the trouble to read most of the decisions made by the Chair in regard to proceedings at report stage he will find this decision to be the right one.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

For all these reasons I cannot accept the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Moose Jaw. The House is now considering motion No. 3 which appears in the name of the hon. member for Yukon. Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. Neil: I would therefore have a further amendment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I have to preclude the hon. member who has already spoken when he moved his amendment. I am ready to allow a few seconds for hon. members if they wish to participate.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, in light of the ruling you have just made I should like to move the following amendment:

That motion No. 3 to amend Bill C-13, an act to amend the Northern Canada Power Commission Act, be amended by deleting all of the words after the words "out" in line 3 of the said motion No. 3 and substituting therefor the words "with the approval of the Governor in Council" where the same appear in lines 22 and 23 at page 2 and the words "on such basis as may be approved by the Governor in Council" where the same appear in lines 3, 4 and 5 on page 3 and by adding to clause 4 next after lines 5 on page 3 the following:

(e) All schedules or ranges of rates for public utilities supplied by the commission under this act and the rates to be charged within those schedules or ranges established pursuant to this section shall be subject to approval by the Yukon Public Utilities Board or the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board as the case may be.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I hope the hon. member will not mind if the Chair takes time to read this proposal, which is quite complicated. Are there any other hon. members who have not already spoken who wish to participate while I consider this proposition?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I just thought I would say that there is a phrase in the Book of Revelation that says "There was silence in Heaven for the space of half an hour". Maybe we can enjoy a little bit of Heaven right here.

Mr. Nielsen: I might also say that there was something in one of the books somewhere that says "Let there be light". That is what we are debating.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that, if you repeated the ruling you have just given, that would be more than adequate to deal with this new amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I finally found my way through the proposed amendment of the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale). I have to say that this amendment has to be ruled out of order completely at the outset because, to repeat what I have said about relevancy, the rule of giving 24 hours' notice for a new proposition applies even more to this one. The hon. member for Brandon-Souris, or any other hon. members whether they have participated in the debate or not, will see in comparing motion No. 3 to the amendment just moved by the hon. member that the amendment takes out all of the proposition. It takes out the meat of the point that was put forward in the change that was proposed by the hon. member for the Yukon. Without repeating myself I must say I cannot accept the amendment. If hon. members will look at the amendment, they will find that it does not