

*Government Orders*

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I want to address the point that you raised because the essential question before the House is whether or not the question put by the hon. member was in order.

The government is held to account each day in Question Period for matters within its administrative competence and I come here every day prepared to respond to any question which is addressed to me relating to matters under my ministerial competence.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the decision you made was the correct one. What we had today was not a question but a representation that the Prime Minister should take such and such an action.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the fundamental question which you raised correctly is whether or not the issue that was raised relates to the administrative competence of the government itself. The answer to that is very clearly that it does not. The government is not responsible for—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** The difficulty we are getting back into—and I appreciate that everybody is trying to help—is the very debate that I do not think ought to proceed this afternoon.

I have a question which is on the record. As soon as I see it I will take a look at it. I may have been in error, but I will take a look at it.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, before making adjudication will we have an opportunity to make further argument?

**Mr. Speaker:** I made it very clear that I will take a look at the matter and if I think it is appropriate that the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier, who is the person who raised the question, should address the Chair further I will invite him to do so.

I thank the hon. member. We may have had enough for the moment.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

## PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM ACT

## MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Loiselle that Bill C-26, an act to amend the Public Service Employment Act, the Public Service Staff Relations Act and other acts in relation to the Public Service of Canada, be read the second time and referred to Legislative Committee H; and the amendment of Mrs. Catterall (p. 6631).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands as two minutes left.

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be able to conclude my remarks in two minutes but perhaps after the amendment has been voted on I will get another opportunity to speak on the main motion and could complete my remarks.

The bill we have before us, as I indicated this morning, is unsatisfactory. Perhaps in the two minutes I could mention four of the particular problems that it creates.

Clause 10 states that job applicants may be evaluated according to a set of standards rather than to a ranking system in which one candidate is compared to another. In other words, we are abandoning the principle where we hired the best qualified person and replaced it with the principle of hiring a qualified person. In other words, you meet the standards, you get hired and it does not matter whether you are the best candidate or not. That used to be the test for hiring in the Public Service. The government is abandoning that. They are lowering the standards. That is not correct. That should not be done.

Clause 16 of the bill states that the commission may appoint someone to the Public Service for a period of up to 90 days and there is a further provision for an extension up to 125 days. In other words, there will be no examination, no tests and no benefits payable to these employees during this 90 day period. It is a *carte blanche* for the government to hire people and then rotate them around through various government departments without having them meet the normal qualifications or pay