prepared to hear argument on that point. I would suggest that motions Nos. 15 and 16 be grouped for debate and voted upon separately.

I think the Chair should add at this point that it has serious doubts as to the procedural aspect of a number of these motions but feels that perhaps the House would expect it to take into account the fact that these motions were put on the order paper late, that the bill was reported only yesterday and it is by consent that it is called today. So we have very special circumstances which I suggest to hon. members should be taken into account.

To study all these motions from the procedural standpoint would have required the Chair to spend much more time than has been available for that purpose, which would have meant that perhaps the bill could not have been considered this evening. If serious arguments were made as to the procedural aspects of some of these motions and the Chair had to reserve judgment on them, I am not sure when we could get back to considering the bill. For all these reasons I would urge hon. members not to be difficult from the procedural standpoint, and the Chair is prepared to proceed on this basis. If it is felt as we proceed with the debate that we should argue the procedural aspects of some of these motions, I will consider it my duty to hear hon. members on such points.

• (8:10 p.m.)

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I was prepared to comment on a number of these motions and to say they were out of order principally because many of them offend our rules by being beyond the scope of the recommendation. I listened carefully to Your Honour, however, and I am conscious that we shall need a spirit of co-operation if we are to pass this bill and make as much progress as possible.

I wish, however, to raise objection to motion No. 14, to which Your Honour referred, because there is real doubt about it. I also wish to record my view that motions Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15 offend the recommendation. I simply want to record the point that in many cases the effect of these amendments would be to put a charge upon the stabilization fund, and a careful reading of the bill will show that this will be a charge upon the consolidated revenue fund.

I do not think, in view of the comments of Your Honour, that I will say more at this stage. I wish it to be known that in connection with any such amendments which might be put in normal circumstances I would want to press this point.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, when the minister responsible for the Wheat Board was listing the motions about which he had some doubt, I wonder why he forgot No. 16. Merely because it stands in his name does not make it in order, does it?

An hon. Member: To him it does.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Seriously, without arguing the points that the minister put forward, may I say on behalf of my colleagues—I am speaking particularly on the amendments that are in the name of members of my party—that we believe the groupings Your Honour has made are reasonable. We are quite prepared to accept them and to confine our debate within the limits determined by those groupings. When we get to motion No. 14 we can deal with the procedural point. I suppose I should admit that it may take me a couple of days to think up good arguments for it, but I shall try.

The only suggestion I wish to make is that if this schedule is pursued it could lead to nine recorded votes taken consecutively. I see a querulous look on the face of the official of this House who has to call those votes. Perhaps when we have five or six stored up we might take a rest and record a few votes at that point. Of course, that decision cannot be made until it is determined whether we have to force recorded votes. It may be that the minister will accept some of these motions in the spirit of co-operation to which he referred a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will therefore put motions No. 1 and 2. First we will take motion No. 1. The Hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) moves:

That Bill C-244, an act respecting the stabilization of prairie grain sale proceeds and to repeal or amend certain related statutes, be amended by adding the following to paragraph (c) of subclause (1) of clause 2 after the word "producer" in line 18 at page 1: "and after the deduction of the increased costs of production and including stabilization payments, if any;"

Next we will take motion No. 2. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar moves:

That Bill C-244, an act respecting the stabilization of prairie grain sale proceeds and to repeal or amend certain related statutes, be amended by deleting the words "amount that is ninety per cent of the" (a) from paragraph (a) of subclause (1) of clause 3 at lines 31 and 32 at page 2 (b) from paragraph (b) of subclause 1 of clause 3 at lines 4 and 5 at page 3.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I think the amendments set out very well what is lacking in this bill and our attempt to correct it. We want to persuade the government to come to terms with the economic situation facing the grain farmer. The economic conditions which the farmer is facing are of continuing inflation which, translated into simple terms, means that his costs have been increasing.

We think that a plan which looks back at a record of returns averaged over five years but which ignores altogether increased costs which farmers have faced in recent year, together with declining income, and which fails to take into account the probability that he will be facing increased costs in the years ahead, falls far short of discharging the responsibility which the government and we as legislators must bear.

In this connection it has been stated by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) that farmers face a period of rather severe adjustment. Some of them will have to leave the land because of economic pressures being exerted on them. In addition to creating plans for retraining and retirement we must, surely, devise plans which consider the farmer who is on the land and producing. We must include within this program an econom-