

Government Orders

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Pursuant to Standing Order 76(8), a recorded division on the motion stands deferred.

[*Translation*]

We now proceed to Motion No. 3, standing in the name of Ms. Callbeck.

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque) moved:

Motion No. 3.

That Bill C-19 be amended in Clause 324 by adding immediately after line 31 at page 168 the following:

“(3) A person who in good faith makes an oral or written communication under subsections (1) or (2) shall not be liable in any civil action arising therefrom.”

[*English*]

She said: Mr. Speaker, this is the same motion that I spoke to yesterday regarding Bill C-4, the trust bill.

What this motion does is protect people who provide information to the auditor in good faith. It is a motion which I feel will improve the soundness of Canadian financial institutions because it prevents a lawsuit against anyone who has information which could help the auditor or an actuary in his work.

I feel this protection is important because an employee may have information that would help an auditor prepare a better audit or a more thorough audit, but that person may be reluctant to come forward because of fear of a lawsuit.

This amendment would clear the way for that person to come forward to the auditor or to the actuary, give them information, which as I said could help the auditor prepare a better audit, better financial statements, and so could improve the soundness of Canadian financial institutions.

Mr. Speaker, because of those reasons I would encourage all members of this House to support this motion.

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the member for Malpeque for this well-reasoned amendment. As in Bill C-4, I have an amendment, which I am sure the hon. member for Malpeque would accept, to the English version. It is our view that the English version that I am now submitting is more appropriately in line with the existing French version. With the unanimous consent of the House, I would like to have the motion made by the hon. member for Malpeque altered in the English version so that the English version will read:

(3) A person who in good faith makes an oral or written communication under subsections (1) or (2) shall not be liable in any civil action arising from having made that communication.

I believe that is acceptable to my friend from Malpeque.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, since we in this corner of the House so ably defended that motion yesterday afternoon, and in fact forced the government into accepting it, we have no problem with the same principle of whistleblowing being applied in Bill C-19 as was in Bill C-4.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is there unanimous consent for the amendment?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Blenkarn) agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion, as amended?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion No. 3, as amended, agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Motions Nos. 2A and 2F are grouped for debate.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)) moved:

Motion No. 2A.

That Bill C-19 be amended in Clause 308 by striking out line 3 on page 161 and substituting the following:

“ing principles, the primary source of which is the Handbook of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.”

Motion No. 2F.

That Bill C-19 be amended in Clause 323 by striking out line 47 on page 167 and substituting the following:

“generally accepted auditing standards, the primary source of which is the Handbook of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.”

[*English*]

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, these two motions do the same thing. They incorporate the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Handbook as the standard of care that we require from auditors and accountants certifying the statements of financial institutions. The concept was produced by the Senate in its review of the bill. We are very pleased to go