

Government Orders

• (1610)

I refer hon. members to citation 698(1) of Beauchesne's sixth edition on page 207.

[*Translation*]

Motion No. 5A, standing in the name of the hon. member for Mount Royal, will be debated and voted on separately.

[*English*]

For the convenience of the House I will recapitulate. Motions Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 will not be selected. Motion No. 1 will be debated and voted on separately. Motion No. 2 will be debated and voted on separately. Motion No. 5A will be debated and voted on separately.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, we expected a lot more debating time on this than we have this afternoon. I have not conferred with any of the parties on this idea, because I just thought of it now, to be quite honest. We are debating three amendment in total.

I wonder if we could get unanimous consent of the House to debate them all together rather than separately. We will vote on them separately, of course. If we could get unanimous consent it would make it much easier for everyone concerned.

We may find that debate on one amendment takes too long and we will not get to the other two.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I think the proposal makes sense. Some of us indeed would like to participate in this debate and no one should be allowed to speak more than once on the combined debates of the three motions before the House.

If that is acceptable, I think on this side, having spoken to some of my colleagues—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Members have heard the terms of the motion. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

An hon. member: No.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plamondon: Unfortunately we have no researcher to do the research we need on this bill, and since we lack the necessary information we cannot give our consent.

[*English*]

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River) moved:

Motion No. 1.

That Bill C-38 be amended in Clause 5

(a) by striking out lines 5 to 7 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:

“5.(1) Subject to subsections (1.1) and (1.2), the Minister, on such terms and conditions as the Governor in Council may approve, may”;

(b) by adding immediately after line 13 at page 3 the following:

“(1.1) The Minister shall not sell or otherwise dispose of shares transferred to the Minister by section 4 unless the buyer of such shares undertakes in writing

(a) to buy, at the same price as the price paid by the buyer for shares sold by the Minister, that proportion of

(i) such number of shares of Telesat as are offered for sale by minority shareholders of Telesat one year after the day the shares of Telesat are offered for sale by the Minister that

(ii) the number of shares bought by the buyer is of

(iii) the total number of shares offered for sale by the Minister, and

(b) to pay the purchase price of shares of minority shareholders of Telesat referred to in paragraph (a) not later than six months after the day such shares are offered for sale.

(1.2) For the purposes of subsection (1.1), “minority shareholder of Telesat” means any shareholder of Telesat, except the Minister and members of Telecom Canada, who holds less than three per cent of the shares of Telesat.”

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to finally get the debate rolling here. I am very disappointed in the attitude of the hon. member for Richelieu who has declined to facilitate debate among other members.

In any event, now that we have to deal with this one proposed amendment, I want to be very practical about this and indicate that there are two other amendments the House will want to debate in the next 45 minutes or so.

This particular amendment, Motion No. 1, addresses the situation of the minority shareholders of Telesat. During the committee hearings and the discussions that went on outside committee concerning this bill it was brought to the attention of members, and discussed publicly, that there are a number of minority shareholders in Telesat who are being locked in as a result of the way this bill has been constructed by the government.