

Private Bills

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, we heard your ruling, but we believe that on clause 1 of a bill, we can have a general discussion. Without casting blame on your ruling, I think that the amendment moved by the hon. member for Lapointe refers to clause 1 as well as to the whole bill.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I appeal your ruling.

[Text]

Mr. Moreau: I think the hon. member could accomplish the purpose he has in mind by simply making a motion that the chairman now leave the chair. We should not have to go through the whole business of appealing a ruling of the chairman.

Mr. Caouette: On that point of order, when we moved that the bill should be returned to a committee for further study it was because we did not agree with the bill itself. That is why we are presenting this motion. I still wish to appeal the ruling.

Mr. Moreau: I might add that the motion to leave the chair would have the effect of killing the bill. It would go to the bottom of the list and would not appear again.

Mr. Caouette: I think that is where it belongs—at the bottom of the list.

Mr. Knowles: If the hon. member wants the bill sent to a committee he should, surely, be prepared to move in the proper manner. It does not help to appeal the chairman's ruling on a matter such as this. If he wishes to move that the committee report the bill and then, when the bill is reported, that it be referred to a committee, that would be the proper procedure.

Mr. Deschatelets: Surely, when his motion is out of order—

Mr. Caouette: If a member of the cabinet or of the government is prepared to move such a motion, we would withdraw our appeal from your decision, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Douglas: It is open to any member of this committee to move that the chairman rise and report progress.

Mr. Caouette: I would not mind if the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam would move such a motion as he has been suggesting. We would support it 100 per cent.

Mr. Howard: Surely, the hon. member for Villeneuve is capable of doing his own work, whatever it might be.

Mr. Knowles: In view of the fact that all this discussion has taken place at a time when no discussion could take place, I assume that the proposal to appeal your

[The Chairman.]

ruling has been rescinded by the action of the committee. Perhaps the members have waived their right to appeal. Surely, the hon. member for Villeneuve and the hon. member for Lapointe realize we are not objecting to the substance of what they are arguing. But we are asking that parliament stay on an even keel. We are now on clause 1 of this bill. The hon. member is right when he says there is a tradition, an understanding, that we can discuss all of the bill at this time. He and his friend are free to discuss the bill, but the only motion they can make is a motion with respect to clause 1 itself—that it be amended or that consideration thereof be deferred. To move that something be done with respect to the bill is to make a motion with respect to something which is not before us. It seems to me this is so clear that the committee ought not to be asked to go through the motions of calling Mr. Speaker and appealing the ruling.

Mr. Caouette: This goes beyond a point of procedure. We are now discussing a bill and there is a mistake in that bill. How can we agree to discuss a bill when it contains an important mistake? This is why we would like to send this bill to the private bills committee. I believe it is important that the bill should come before us without a mistake, so that we might be able to discuss a bill which did not contain any errors. That is why we would like it referred to the committee.

Mr. Byrne: I do not think we should keep on wrangling all the afternoon. I think the Chair should either decide that the ruling cannot be appealed, or we should carry on in the normal way.

The Chairman: The chairman cannot say that his ruling cannot be appealed. It is my understanding that the appeal is still before the committee. I appreciate that there has been discussion, perhaps at a time when there should not have been, while the Chair was preparing to submit the appeal to the house. That is what we intend to do now, unless, of course, it is the wish of the proposer of the amendment to withdraw it.

[Translation]

Mr. Deschatelets: Mr. Chairman, must I understand that before raising this particular point and following his exchange with a member whose name I cannot think of for the moment, the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) will wait until we have reached the clause in question, which would allow us to proceed until that time.