

Combines Investigation Act

[Translation]

The House will now proceed to consideration of motion No. 22 appearing in the name of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet).

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) moves:

That Bill C-2, An Act to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Bank Act and to repeal an Act to amend an Act to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code, be amended in Clause 18 by striking out line 6 on page 42 thereof and substituting therefor the following:

"to imprisonment for five".

[English]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, on this motion I wish to propose the following amendment, seconded by my hon. friend from Malpeque (Mr. MacLean):

That motion No. 22 be amended by striking out all the words following the words "Clause 18" and by substituting therefor the following:

"by striking out lines 6 and 7 on page 42 thereof and by substituting therefor the following:

"to a fine in the discretion of the court or to imprisonment for five years, or to both."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said amendment? All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to section 11 of Standing Order 75, the recorded division on the amendment to motion No. 22 stands deferred.

[English]

The House will now proceed to motion No. 25, which is the last of the group.

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) moved:

Motion No. 25.

That Bill C-2 be amended in clause 24 by striking out lines 6 to 11 inclusive on page 48 thereof and substituting therefor the following:

"imprisonment for five years; or

(b) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for one year, or to both."

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I would propose an amendment, seconded by the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle). It is:

That motion No. 25 be amended by striking out all the words following the word "following" and by substituting the following:

"a fine in the discretion of the court or to imprisonment for five years, or to both; or

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

(b) on summary conviction, to a fine of twenty-five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for one year, or to both."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said amendment? All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to section 11 of Standing Order 75, the recorded division on this amendment to motion No. 25 stands deferred.

This completes the grouping on these motions of a similar type. If the House agrees, we can now proceed in an orderly manner to the consideration, one by one, of motions 10, 11, 18, 20, and 21. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will call motion No. 10 standing in the name of the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez):

Motion No. 10.

That Bill C-2 be amended in clause 16 by

(a) striking out lines 18 to 22 inclusive at page 29, and substituting therefor "him elsewhere in Canada",

(b) striking out line 28 on page 29 and substituting therefor "to have such effect; or"

(c) adding immediately after line 28 on page 29, the following subsection:

"(d) engages in a policy of selling products as loss leaders, that is to say, not for the purpose of making a profit on that item, but for purposes of advertising or of attracting customers to his place of business in the hope of selling them other products,".

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, the bill which the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) introduced to the House permits a practice called loss leading. He is prepared to accept this practice where, he says, it is not used to destroy competition in a particular marketplace.

What is loss leading? It is the practice of selling a particular product at a loss. What possible reason could a corporation or a wholesaler or a retailer have for engaging in it? What loss leading does, in effect, is to eliminate competition, thus creating monopolies. It deceives people into believing that somehow or other they are getting a bargain and that more than the price is right. Unsuspecting consumers believe that by going into a store and buying, say, cigarettes below cost they are getting a bargain. However, experience has shown that the loss which the company is prepared to take on the cigarettes is covered by the higher prices of other items in the store. Needless to say, that kind of practice makes non-smokers, for example, pay for the benefit smokers get in getting a better deal on cigarettes. The same argument can be extrapolated to other items.