

*Government Orders*

## SPEAKER' RULING—MOTIONS IN AMENDMENT

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could perhaps get your guidance and elaboration. The parliamentary secretary has made an intervention with regard to this particular subject matter, suggesting that it is *ultra vires*, unconstitutional, and therefore the House ought not to be seized with it.

I suggest respectfully that it is important that we have an early adjudication of whether or not this is procedurally correct.

**Mr. Speaker:** Just a moment. I hesitate to interfere—

**Mr. Dingwall:** If I could be allowed to complete my remarks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, but I am not asking for debate right now. I agree completely with the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond that if the issue is to be raised, it should be raised very quickly.

I am asking the parliamentary secretary and the leaders of the opposition parties to consult in the next few minutes, to contact me, and I will comply with the very sensible suggestion of the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond and we will hear this matter. The matter has now been raised in answer to a question, not as a formal proposal at all, and I would like to have the thing put on a more formal basis.

I agree completely with the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond that if this is going to be the position of the government, it should be in front of the Chair, and it should be in front of the Chair very quickly. I am asking hon. members to co-operate with me in this regard.

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**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[*English*]

**PATENT ACT**

## MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-91, an act to amend the Patent Act, to amend another act in consequence thereof and to provide for other related matters, as reported (with amendment) from a legislative committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am obliged to give a ruling with respect to motions, that is amendments, to Bill C-91.

I want to say something about this. Most of these motions came in yesterday afternoon and up until six o'clock. The Table and the Chair have dealt with them. I have to say to hon. members that this procedure is asking more of the Table than is fair and it is asking more of the Chair than is appropriate.

We are in a position now, because of the way the rules stand, that an almost impossible task is often being asked with respect to these amendments. People worked all night to bring this to my attention this morning and, with the best will in the world, I have to hope that those who were working on these amendments have come to the appropriate decisions. I have gone over them, I have discussed it, but it is a process which I ask hon. members to consider and, hopefully, to reconsider. This is putting a burden on the Table which, in many cases and certainly with the number of amendments that are in front of us right now, goes beyond the bounds of good sense and the operation of this Chamber.

There are 73 motions in amendment on the Notice Paper for the report stage of Bill C-91, an act to amend the Patent Act, to amend another act in consequence thereof, and to provide for other related matters.

• (1030)

[*Translation*]

Motion No. 1 standing in the name of the hon. member for Dartmouth and Motion No. 2 standing in the name of the hon. member for Surrey North will be grouped for debate and voted upon as follows:

a) An affirmative vote on Motion No. 2 obviates the necessity of voting on Motion No. 1.

b) A negative vote on Motion No. 2 necessitates the question being put on Motion No. 1.

[*English*]

Motions Nos. 3, 10, 22, 24, 29, 37, 59, 62, 66 and 72 standing in the name of the hon. member for Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville are identical to Motions Nos. 4, 9, 21, 23, 28, 36, 58, 63, 65 and 71.

Motions Nos. 8 and 64 standing in the name of the hon. member for Dartmouth are identical to Motions Nos. 7 and 63. For this reason these motions will not be selected.