

Election Expenses

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Pursuant to section (11) of Standing Order 75, a recorded division on the proposed motions stands deferred.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, earlier when we were discussing how the amendments were to be taken, Mr. Speaker only indicated the combinations of the first two. I wonder whether it might be appropriate at this time to suggest to the House that motions Nos. 7, 17 and 31 be taken as a group since they deal with Canadian funds and the sources of those funds as donations to campaigns. Then, following that we might take motions Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 11 as a group since they deal with limits on party expenditures. Then, motion No. 12 deals with party gifts to candidates and should probably be dealt with separately, though I should like to reserve my right to argue a point of order on its procedural acceptability.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to ask what we are voting on, motion No. 3, or motion No. 3 plus some other motions?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): We have deferred the vote on motions Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I would point out the absolute absurdity of that, because motion No. 3 is not in any way consistent with motion No. 5 as I read it, and I do not know how we could vote in that way.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): I understood the arrangement or suggestion was made that motions Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 be voted on, but if the hon. member wants to change that the Chair is ready to listen to him.

Mr. Brewin: The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that motion No. 3 provides for electoral district agents and refers to designation by the chief agents of the parties. That is one thing. Motion No. 5 provides for an association or organization of the members of a registered party within an electoral district choosing a person to be an electoral district agent, and so forth. It seems to me these are two quite separate proposals, and I do not understand how we can vote for or against two inconsistent motions simultaneously.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, if one checks one will find that motion No. 3 is a definition amendment. Motion No. 4 adds the words "electoral district agent" to a clause in the bill. Motion No. 5 sets out the way in which an electoral district agent is to be chosen, which is by a group in a particular riding calling itself whatever it happens to be; and motion No. 6 sets out how the agent is to be registered. As I understood Mr. Speaker's suggestion, it was to put all the items that dealt with the same subject, in this case an electoral district agent, into one package for discussion, and then have a separate vote, as it is called, at a later moment.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, the way the report stage amendments were to operate, as I understood Mr. Speaker's remarks at the commencement of the debate this afternoon, was that motions Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 would be lumped together for discussion purposes only, and that when the vote took place—and the vote has now been deferred—a vote will take place on each of motions Nos. 3,

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger).]

4, 5 and 6. In other words, there will be four opportunities to record a vote on those motions.

I disagree with the contention of my colleague from Greenwood in regard to the inconsistency or contrariness of one to another, but assuming that is the case for the sake of argument, whether or not there is an inconsistency is not material to the vote. If there is an inconsistency, a member can vote one way on one and another way on the other. He can do that if he finds them inconsistent. However, I believe, they are companion pieces to one another. One deals with a definition; the second ensures that the definition of "registered agent" includes an electoral district agent; the third is the mechanism by which an electoral district agent may be chosen; and the fourth is a mechanism for advising the Chief Electoral Officer of any changes in the registry of electoral district agents.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Do I understand the House is unanimous that the motions will be voted on separately? If so I will put the question again.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (2130)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt Motion No. 3?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): The division on motion No. 3 is deferred. The question is now in respect of Motion No. 4. All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): The division on Motion No. 4 is deferred.

The question is now in respect of Motion No. 5. All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.