

And leave having been granted to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition to propose the said motion;

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section (9) of Standing Order 26, directed that the proposed motion stand over until 8.00 o'clock p.m. this day.

Bill C-144, An Act to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, was again considered at the report stage.

#### RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: On May 20, 1970 the House took up consideration of the report stage of Bill C-144, an Act to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada, including research and planning and implementation of the programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources.

On May 26, 1970, after several of the motions standing for consideration at the Report Stage had been disposed of, the honourable Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding) proposed to file a motion to amend the said bill, and this has given rise to the point of order which I initiated a moment ago.

After considering the wording of Section (5) of Standing Order 75, it seemed to me that a motion to amend the bill could not be accepted once consideration of a Report Stage of the bill had been undertaken. If honourable Members will consult the Standing Orders they will see that Section (5) of Standing Order 75 reads as follows: "If, not later than twenty-four hours prior to the consideration of a Report Stage, written notice is given of any motion to amend, delete, insert or restore any clause in a bill, it shall be printed on a Notice Paper."

As the honourable Member has said, the words are very clear. The wording says, "on a Notice Paper". It seems to me that the operative words in that section are "prior to the consideration of a Report Stage." The honourable Member insisted on the words "a Report Stage" but I suggest the operational words, as I said, are "prior to the consideration of a Report Stage". To my mind, those words may not be interpreted to mean prior to and during the consideration of a Report Stage. This point of view is supported if reference is made to the operative words in the French version of that Standing Order, to which the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) referred. The operative phrase in the French version, which is very clear, is as follows: "avant l'étude concernant l'étape du rapport".

I suggest to the honourable Member that the Chair could not possibly put on those words in the French text, which is as official as the English text, the interpretation which he thinks might be placed on the English version of the Standing Order.

It is suggested that the explanatory note which follows Standing Order 75 confirms my opinion that only amendments of a clerical or of a consequential nature can be accepted after the Report Stage of a bill has been entered upon. Section (7) of the Standing Order waives the requirement of notice for con-