bers so that members may serve on one or two committees and there is not the massive change and platooning to keep up strength because of fear that there might be a vote. Some members join the committee and want to reinvent the wheel, as it were. They want to start from square one again, and that should not be allowed.

Mr. Blenkarn: You are absolutely right.

Mr. Lambert: Once a committee begins work, its membership should remain and when a member comes on, let him pick up the testimony of the past and read. The good Lord gave him the ability to read. To come to committee absolutely green on a subject and, as I say, reinvent the wheel, is not the way in which a committee should be conducted.

In any event, how does one obtain this information when the committee decides, two or three years down the road, that, for instance, it would like some information, about reciprocity? Remember, the Inspector General cannot be summoned on the examination of estimates. How much time can the finance committee spend on the examination of estimates when it is already overloaded? It would be lucky to have 80 minutes with the Inspector General of Banks in any full term, and that is not good enough.

What we require is a careful preparation of the information requested by the committee, and then the committee may debate that information. I hope it is not a case where one side sits there with a hedgehog mentality to protect the government's interests. All members are responsible for the passage and for intelligent consideration of legislation, and I would like to see an improvement in our work. This is what I would call a technical amendment within the act. Such an amendment has nothing to do with the operation of the banking system, but it certainly improves the readiness with which information would be available to members on the banking committee so that more informed decisions could be made.

I suggest that such a proposal should be implemented in many other fields. I hesitate to suggest income tax because we would never get around to studying all the questions, but there are many other fields of legislation, I think, in which this amendment could apply with equal facility. Hopefully, with the freedom of information legislation this will come about in some areas.

I believe I have qualified matters as much as possible in the amendment. The Inspector General is fully protected. The committee will take the responsibility of putting the matter on a confidential basis, and I know what my reaction would be if an hon. member of that committee suddenly became leaky tap. I think the rest of the committee would literally put the boots to that hon. member in their criticism of such bad behaviour. We as members of Parliament have responsibilities, and I do not have to engage in a lecture on that subject, nor would I wish to do so. I honestly and earnestly plead with members of the House to accept what I consider is a very important, non-partisan amendment to the Bank Act which will not affect the technical workings of the act but will affect the limits which affect us in reaching intelligent and informed decisions regarding the banking system of this country.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Does the minister rise on a point of order?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State, Finance): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to answer briefly. I do not want us to be unable to go through all the amendments before ten o'clock. If I were convinced that the members of the committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, did not have sufficient information when they considered the Bank Act, I wold not hesitate to recommend that such an amendment be accepted. However, I am convinced that all the information needed to evaluate the work we have to do as members of Parliament can be secured in committee, and I relate that to the activity of the committee concerning the Bank Act, and I am convinced that we have all the information which is necessary; consequently I do not see the necessity for that amendment.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The question is on motion No. 48 in the name of the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert).

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay!

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

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion No. 48 (Mr. Lambert) negatived on division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): We pass now to motion No. 49.

Hon. Stanley Knowles (for Mr. Rae) moved:

Motion No. 49

That Bill C-6, an act to revise the Bank Act, to amend the Quebec Savings Banks Act and the Bank of Canada Act, to establish the Canadian Payments Association and to amend other acts in consequence thereof, be amended in clause 2 by striking out subsections (2) to (8) of section 302 and sections 303 to 307 inclusive at pages 306 to 318.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Is the House ready for the question?