

*Government Orders*

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I too wish to echo the sentiments of my colleague and that is why I asked the question. These amendments have just arrived and we will need a clear explanation as to what they mean and also the consequential effects that the legislation may have on other pieces of legislation before the House.

In terms of trying to facilitate the debate, I hope that the minister responsible and the member who will be responding on behalf of the Government of Canada will understand the dilemma that we as opposition members are confronted with at the present time in that we will want to have a clear explanation.

Of course hon. members opposite may stand in their place and say: "They are technical amendments and they really do not mean all that much". We have seen that case before under Bill C-35 where consequential amendments in themselves have been somewhat substantive.

As you might recall, Mr. Speaker, as you sat in the chair on Friday, Bill C-35 has not seen its passage in this House as of yet.

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Speaker, I also wish to speak on this point of order and the fact that all these amendments came to us this morning.

I believe the government has been dealing with the reform of financial institutions since 1985 when I served on the finance committee. We have been holding hearings and the finance committee has dealt with this, et cetera. The government has come in with a major number of amendments at the last moment. This is a very complex area and even a few technical changes of words can have tremendous effects and impacts in terms of the financial community.

We have no clear idea what the government is doing with these amendments, nor are we in a position to be able to determine the effects of these amendments until we hear presentations from the financial institutions and until experts can go through them. It is only then that we will know what is really meant by these amendments and the effects that these amendments will have.

As opposition members we cannot do our job properly, particularly in this area which is so highly technical, with the government coming in with a major number of amendments at the last moment.

Therefore I would like to move that this be set aside.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Before recognizing the hon. member for Mississauga South, I may recall that the Chair received the government's latest amendments Friday evening and that all the motions were examined by the Chair and its advisers so that a ruling could be given this morning.

The hon. member for Mississauga South, on the same point of order.

[*English*]

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the problems of members looking at a host of amendments to Bills C-4, C-19, C-28 and C-34. Members will know that the huge number of amendments to Bill C-4 are totally as a result of the hearings held with respect to Bill C-19 and with respect to Bills C-34 and C-28.

As we worked through the legislation, a number of representations were made to the committee and to the finance people who were intimately working with the details of the legislation. It was given as an undertaking to everyone involved that the legislation would be amended so that all of the bills would be read together as financial legislation bills.

• (1220 )

There is no intention here of trying to pull a fast one. I want to negotiate and talk from time to time to my colleagues on the other side of the House, which we will do at break points, in order to make sure that everything goes along the way it ought to.

I want to point out that this is difficult legislation, as my friend from Regina—Qu'Appelle said, but it is legislation we have been working on in great detail over a long period of time.

The first passage of what is now Bill C-4 occurred last year in the last Parliament. That bill has now been re-engrossed to report stage as Bill C-4 without further debate in the House because we wanted to move the legislation forward. However, as time went by, it became necessary to make changes and those changes have by and large been agreed upon by all of the parties that are affected by the legislation. Changes are there, particularly to Bill C-4 as we start debating it, to reflect the changes that have already been made in Bill C-19, Bill C-28 and Bill C-34.