

appointed to enquire into and make recommendations upon the trends in food prices in Canada and factors domestic and foreign which account for these trends;

That 20 Members of the House of Commons to be designated by the House at a later date be the members of the Special Joint Committee and that Standing Order 65(5) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses; to sit during periods when the House stands adjourned; to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable; to delegate to sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report direct to the House; to engage the services of counsel, accountants and such other clerical and technical personnel as may be deemed necessary; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select if the Senate deems it advisable, some of its Members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

And on the motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Jarvis, in amendment thereto,—That the motion be amended by striking out (a) the words "Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons" in the first paragraph and substituting therefor the words "Special Committee of this House", (b) the word "Joint" in the second paragraph, and (c) the fourth paragraph.

And debate continuing;

Mr. Allard, seconded by Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse), proposed to move in amendment to the said proposed amendment,—That the amendment be amended by replacing the period by a comma and adding the following:

"and that the said Committee be also appointed to inquire into the possibility of reducing the interest rates paid by consumers in order to increase their purchasing power for consumer goods."

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member proposes as a subamendment the motion that he has just read. The Chair has serious doubts as to the acceptability of this amendment and would be happy to hear comments from honourable Members who would like to help the Chair on this point. If there are no comments, I am ready to render my decision.

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MR. SPEAKER: I thank the honourable Member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) for his comments to enlighten the Chair. The amendment proposed by the honourable Member for Rimouski is obviously interesting but, as I said, I have serious doubts about its admissibility mainly

because it tends to amend the main motion rather than the amendment.

In other words, what the honourable Member proposes to the House is a new amendment rather than a sub-amendment. The honourable Member tries, in other words, to amend the main motion before the House rather than the amendment which seeks to eliminate referral to the Senate. The subamendment should necessarily be connected with the subject covered by the amendment now before the House.

The honourable Member could perhaps put a motion, such as the one he has just suggested, as amendment to the main motion.

However, I must warn the honourable Member I do not say that even that motion would be in order, especially in view of citation 291 of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition.

Anyhow, this is hypothetical and we have before us a quite specific amendment which, in my opinion, cannot be considered as an amendment to an amendment.

I must therefore regretfully make that decision which is moreover the one made a moment ago by the Deputy Speaker of the House in connection with an amendment put by a New Democratic Party representative.

It is therefore with regret that I advise the honourable Member that his motion cannot be put to the House.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. MacEachen,—That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to enquire into and make recommendations upon the trends in food prices in Canada and factors domestic and foreign which account for these trends;

That 20 Members of the House of Commons to be designated by the House at a later date be the members of the Special Joint Committee and that Standing Order 65(5) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses; to sit during periods when the House stands adjourned; to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable; to delegate to sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report direct to the House; to engage the services of counsel, accountants and such other clerical and technical personnel as may be deemed necessary; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select if the Senate deems it advisable, some of its Members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.