

Employment Equity

[English]

POINTS OF ORDER

IMASCO STATUS—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Minister of State for Finance (Mrs. McDougall) gave me notice that she wished to raise a point of order.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. On Friday, April 18, in response to a question from the Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon), I may have unintentionally misled the House. I thank him for bringing it to my attention privately.

At that time I stated that Imasco was classified as a Canadian company under FIRA and Investment Canada. I would like to say for the record that Imasco is deemed to have Canadian status under Investment Canada but no similar status had been granted by FIRA.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO REPORT OF
STANDING COMMITTEE—SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: On Friday last, the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) raised the question of the application of Standing Order 99(2) and alleged that the Minister of State for Immigration (Mr. McLean) had not met the requirements of the Standing Orders in not providing a comprehensive response to the fifth and sixth reports of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration.

The Chair has had the opportunity to review the responses of the Minister which were filed with the Clerk of the House on March 7, 1986 and April 18, 1986. The Hon. Member for Spadina and other Hon. Members will understand that the Chair would be in a very difficult position were it to be called upon to rule on the quality of Government responses, as it is in similar difficulty ruling on the quality of questions or answers during Question Period. The Hon. Member for Spadina is certainly entitled to disagree with the responses, if that is his view, and he has other options and procedures available to him if he chooses.

As far as the Chair is concerned, the terms of Standing Order 99(2) have been met in this case and the Chair ought not to intervene, except on the strictest procedural grounds.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Miss MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration), that Bill C-62, An Act respecting employment equity, be read the third time and passed; and on the amendment (Ms. Copps) (p. 12465).

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: The question is as follows—

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is now in some difficulty.

Mr. Allmand: There was a lot of noise and I thought the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) still had the floor. I know there were other people who wanted to speak on this amendment, and if they won't, I will.

Mr. Speaker: I think the House knows that the Chair is always in difficulty right after Question Period because there is a lot of noise. This would be a good time to remind the House that the whole procedure would be simplified if the House came to order as quickly as possible after Question Period. Under the circumstances, I will recognize the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East (Mr. Allmand) on debate.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to have the floor again so quickly but I will be glad to speak.

Since I spoke this morning on the principal motion for third reading, the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) made an amendment to send the Bill back to a legislative committee for reconsideration of Clause 3, Clause 5 and Clause 7 of the Bill. While most clauses of the Bill are important, those three are the key to the enforcement of affirmative action and employment equity. Furthermore, among those three clauses I suggest that Clause 7 is the most important.

As it now stands, Clause 7 provides for a penalty of \$50,000 to employers who fail to report pursuant to Clause 6 of the Bill. That, in effect, amounts to no penalty whatsoever for those who do not make progress on the implementation of employment equity.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pappas): Order, please. I am trying to hear the Hon. Member's speech. Thank you.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, Clause 7 of the Bill applies a penalty only to those who fail to report to the Minister. They are simply required to report on the composition of their labour force with respect to the designated groups.

That Clause does not apply any penalty to those who do not comply with Clause 4 or Clause 5 of the Bill. Those two clauses are of more importance to the advancement of employment equity.

Clause 4 is an integral part of the Bill because it requires employers to implement employment equity through several proposed means. While it obliges employers to do something about employment equity, it provides for no penalty if no action is taken.