

Commission Act, be read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development."

The honourable Member for Yukon moved the following amendment: "That all the words after "That" be left out and the following inserted:

"this bill be not now read a second time but that the subject-matter thereof be referred to a task force appointed under the Inquiries Act."

Honourable Members will notice that the amendment proposed by the honourable Member for Yukon is in the same terms as the amendment moved on January 13 by the honourable Member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams). At that time the Chair expressed reservations about the procedural acceptability of the amendment. It was accepted only by the unanimous agreement of the House.

When the honourable Member for Yukon proposed the amendment yesterday, the Chair expressed the same reservations and stated that the amendment would not be acceptable without further considerations, unless the House unanimously agreed that it should be accepted. There was no agreement. The Chair then heard representations from honourable Members on the question of the acceptability on the amendment, given the fact that there was no agreement.

The Chair reserved the decision. I have now had an opportunity to further consider the authorities and to read and consider the very helpful contributions made yesterday by those honourable Members who assisted the Chair on the procedural point.

I have come to the conclusion, regretfully, that the amendment cannot be accepted. I will not repeat what I said yesterday afternoon on the point that the amendment proposes a reference to a body which is not now in existence. As mentioned yesterday, there are precedents and authorities which, in proper circumstances, would permit the Chair, to accept such a motion when the proposed reference was to an existing entity constituted or empowered to accept the kind of undertaking or study that would be required should the amendment carry.

The honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), in his assistance on the procedural point, referred to citation 386(2) of Beauchesne's fourth edition as authority for accepting the amendment proposed by the honourable Member for Yukon. The citation reads: "An amendment urging the setting up of a select com-

mittee to consider the subject-matter of a Bill, might be moved and carried, if the House were adverse to giving the Bill itself a second reading and so conceding the principle."

With the greatest respect to the honourable Member, it seems there is a distinction which I should try to draw. As honourable Members know, there is a well established form of amendment on second reading, namely along the lines that this bill be not now read a second time, but that the subject-matter thereof be referred to such and such a standing committee. This procedure must be preserved, not for the sake of form alone, but because the law and practice of Canada and this House has recognized effective methods of dealing with legislation.

When legislation is referred to a body which is outside the legislative process, such as is provided in the proposed amendment, we are endeavouring to add a new arm to the legislative machinery. In so doing, the amendment fails to meet the requirement to what is generally referred to as a reasoned amendment, as defined in citation 382 of Beauchesne's fourth edition.

In my view, the honourable Member's proposed amendment is a substantive proposition and not acceptable as an amendment. Having said this with reference to citation 386(2), I want to add that I think that it is a very helpful authority. I am sure honourable Members are ingenious enough in their drafting skills to draft an amendment in circumstances such as these, based on the authority of that citation, which would be acceptable to the Chair.

The House resumed debate on the motion of Mr. Chrétien, seconded by Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton),—That Bill C-193, An Act to amend the Northern Canada Power Commission Act, be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

And debate continuing;

Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Bell, moved in amendment thereto,—That all the words after "That" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"this Bill be not now read a second time but the subject-matter thereof be referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development."

After debate thereon, the question being put on the said amendment, it was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs.

Alexander,
Baldwin,
Bell,
Bigg,
Cadieu,
Coates,
Comeau,

Crouse,
Danforth,
Dinsdale,
Dionne,
Fairweather,
Forrestall,
Fortin,

Gauthier,
Godin,
Hales,
Howe,
Korchinski,
Lambert
(Edmonton West),

Laprise,
Latulippe,
Lundrigan,
MacInnis (Cape
Breton-East
Richmond),
MacLean,

Macquarrie,
MacRae,
McCleave,
McIntosh,
Marshall,
Mazankowski,
Nesbitt,