

ment moved by the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Kellner) is framed in precisely the same terms as the amendment moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) the other day. It has the same purport, except for the fact that the figure is altered; and as the House confirmed the ruling of the Chairman of the committee, rejecting the previous motion, I am bound to be guided by that decision and rule this amendment out of order.

Mr. GARDINER: First of all, Mr. Speaker, may I ask you to give the authority for your decision at the present moment? In the next place, I should like to call your attention to this fact: the deputy speaker the other day gave a certain ruling which was appealed from.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will pardon me if I interrupt him. If the House is not satisfied with my ruling it may be appealed from.

Mr. GARDINER: The Deputy Speaker the other day, in committee, gave a certain ruling—

Mr. McGIBBON: There is no debate on this.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member speaking to a point of order?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The ruling has already been given.

Mr. GARDINER: I did not understand that you had given your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I declared the amendment out of order and gave my reasons.

Mr. GARDINER: I did not hear you give the ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member did not hear me he may speak.

Mr. GARDINER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I say, the Deputy Speaker gave a ruling in committee, and that ruling was appealed from. Your Honour then took the chair and the House voted on the Chairman's ruling. To-day you uphold the former ruling, not on the strength of any authorities you might quote, but because of the fact that the House had confirmed the decision of the Chairman. Now, the point I want to make is this: the Deputy Speaker in the first place is nominated by the government in power, who usually have a majority, and that being so it can be understood that when the Deputy Speaker—or the Speaker, as the case may be—gives a

[Mr. Speaker.]

ruling, that ruling will be sustained by the government and its supporters. That, however, does not imply a soundness in the ruling itself, and in this instance I would appeal to you to base your decision upon the authorities rather than upon what may have happened two or three days ago.

Mr. SPEAKER: The best authority for the Speaker is the judgment of the House. The Speaker merely voices the opinion of the House. The House, having declared out of order an amendment framed precisely as the one now under discussion, I am bound, in accordance with that decision and irrespective of the authorities, to rule the present motion also out of order. A distinction must be drawn between the principle invoked by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and the principle now appealed to. In my judgment there is a slight difference. In the present case I am bound by the judgment of the House, even if I were able to find authorities to the contrary.

Mr. COOTE: Might I ask a question of Your Honour?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a very important point, and I should like hon. members to express their views.

Mr. COOTE: I have no view to express; I would like to ask Your Honour a question. The amendment moved the other day was an amendment to a resolution; this is an amendment to a bill. I would like Your Honour to inform the House whether the effect is the same in both cases?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is exactly the same, and I will explain why. When the resolution is passed by the committee it is reported to the Speaker and it is thereupon moved that the introduction of a bill based on such a resolution be permitted. What is contained in the resolution is contained in concrete form in the bill, so the effect is exactly the same.

Mr. WARD: Just by way of information may I ask a question of Your Honour? What is the difference between the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition and the amendment just moved by the hon. member for Athabaska (Mr. Kellner)?

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member kindly repeat his question; I did not understand it.

Mr. WARD: I would like Your Honour to explain to the House the difference be-