

Government Orders

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: There are eight report stage motions set down on the Notice Paper in amendment to Bill C-69, an act to amend certain statutes to enable restraint of government expenditures.

Motions Nos. 1 and 2, standing in the name of the hon. member for Mission—Coquitlam, will not be selected as Motion No. 1 goes beyond the scope of the bill and Motion No. 2 imposes a charge upon the Crown. It attempts to increase the contributions payable.

I refer the hon. member to Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, Citation 773, paragraphs (1), (7) and (8).

[*Translation*]

Motion No. 3 is also set down by the Hon. Member from Mission—Coquitlam. It is beyond the scope of the clause and of the bill. The amendment also tries to impose a new condition on all federal-provincial agreements.

[*English*]

Motions Nos. 4 and 8 are acceptable. These motions, both to be moved by the hon. member for Mission—Coquitlam, will be grouped for debate as they both affect the coming into force of the bill. They will be voted on separately.

Motions Nos. 5 and 7 standing in the name of the hon. member for Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing cannot be selected. They are out of order as they attempt to amend sections of or add to the original or parent act.

In this connection I would like to refer hon. members to Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, Citation 773, paragraph (8) which states as follows:

(8)(a) An amendment may not amend a statute which is not before the committee.

(b) An amendment may not amend sections from the original Act unless they are specifically being amended in a clause of the bill before the committee.

[*Translation*]

Motion No. 6 will not be selected as in the Chair's view it will impose a charge on the treasury beyond that contemplated by the Crown in the Royal Recommendation that accompanied this bill on its introduction. Hon. members will find the practice set out in Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, Citation 773, paragraph 7.

[*English*]

To recapitulate, Motions Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 will not be selected.

[*Translation*]

Motions Nos. 4 and 8 will be grouped for debate but voted on separately.

[*English*]

I just want to add that I am very much aware as the Speaker that there was some considerable discussion with respect to some of these motions. They were very carefully looked into, not only by the table, but also by the Chair again this morning. While it may be a disappointment to the hon. member, I hope the hon. member will accept that the matter has been looked at very carefully. I know the hon. member will accept the ruling.

I will now propose Motions Nos. 4 and 8 to the House.

MEASURE TO AMEND

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam) moved:

Motion No. 4

That Bill C-69 be amended in Clause 2 by adding immediately after line 17 at page 2, the following:

"(3)(a) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, this section shall not come into force or effect until such time as the provinces as defined in subsections (1) and (2) are provided with one year's notice of the intent of the federal government with respect to payments to be made under the Canada Assistance Plan Act.

(b) For further clarity, the passage of this Act shall not be considered notice for the purposes of paragraph (a)."

Motion No. 8

That Bill C-69 be amended by adding immediately after line 15 at page 6 the following new clause:

"8. This Act shall come into force and effect on February 20, 1992."

She said: Madam Speaker, as much as we wanted to see our amendments go through, we do accept the ruling of the Chair and the spirit in which it is given. We are very pleased that the Chair was able to rule in favour and allow debate on Motions Nos. 4 and 8.

• (1520)

According to Section 8 of the Canada Assistance Plan Act, one year's notice must be given prior to the changing of the terms of the agreement between the province and the federal government.

The federal government, by introducing Bill C-69, is attempting to unilaterally change the terms of the agreement without prior notice or consultation with the affected provinces.

The act in fact is very clear and specific. It states:

—where notice of intention to terminate an agreement is given in accordance with paragraphs (c) or (d), the agreement shall cease to be effective for any period after the day fixed in the notice or for any period after the expiration of one year from the day on which the notice is given, whichever is later.

Section 5 of the act states that the federal government will pay to the province 50 per cent of the cost to the