

the ideal place to discuss his proposals and eventually to make any necessary changes would be in committee. This is a matter for the Transport Committee to deal with. However, Mr. Speaker, they are opposed even to referring this matter to the Transport Committee. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, and because I think the House must come to a decision on this matter, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras):

That the question be now put.

• (1200)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If I have correctly understood the Hon. Member, he has moved the previous question. The Chair proposes not to accept or pass judgment on the motion until the Chair has had an opportunity to render a decision on a point of order raised by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain. Therefore, the Chair will simply defer consideration of this motion until the Chair has been able to deal with the point of order.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I take it, though, that the previous question has in fact been properly moved by the Hon. Member for Rosemont (Mr. Lachance), in the event the Chair does dismiss the point of order raised by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Depending on the finding of the Chair, it may well be that the motion could be considered. It depends on the view of the Chair and the Chair at this point is not passing judgment or putting the motion before the House.

[Translation]

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Rosemont (Mr. Lachance) on a point of order.

Mr. Lachance: If I understand correctly, the question has been properly moved, but you are deferring presentation of the motion in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is correct.

[English]

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of clarification, am I to understand that in the event that the Chair finds that the Bill is properly before the House and that it should not be separated, you will then entertain arguments as to the procedural validity of the motion which has been presented?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair at that point will consider the motion which has been presented. Whether there is a point of order raised at that point, the Chair is not in any way going to try to anticipate. The Chair will deal with the motion as presented after having dealt with the point of order raised by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain.

Western Grain Transportation Act

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I assume that the Chair will then entertain points of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair makes no commitment other than to deal with the motion.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, following the reference to the previous question on page 157 of *Beauchesne*, wherein it refers to page 327 of *Bourinot*, it states that once it is proposed—that is the previous question—the debate may continue on the original question. Therefore, am I to assume that we will continue debate on the original—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: This has been the procedure of the Chair, to continue debate until such time as the Chair has had an opportunity carefully to review the record, render a decision on the point of order, and then deal with the motion as proposed. I believe the House understands that. Are there other speakers on the main question?

Mr. Towers: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is that motion proper to be either accepted or rejected?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair is not dealing with the matter at this point. The Chair is going to render a decision on the point raised by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain, at which time the Chair will consider the motion as proposed.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, to go back to my original point, the fact of the matter is that this Bill may very well be improperly before the House. All you are doing by taking the position that you have is simply to—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair is—

Mr. Mazankowski: As I understand it, that particular motion should be put immediately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair will not put that motion until the Chair has dealt with the point of order. Hon. Members should understand this. It is a perfectly regular procedure.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Excuse me. Perhaps for the benefit of the record, the previous question is a debatable motion. There is no question about that. Any Hon. Member who would like to intervene in debate will certainly have an opportunity to intervene in debate on that motion, in case that was the point of the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski).

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, you are not accepting that motion until you render a decision on the point of order?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is perfectly correct.

Mr. Mazankowski: In that case, we have the potential of two possible motions—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair will try to deal in an orderly way with the point of order and then the motion.