

Government Orders

[English]

Motion No. 3 also in the name of the hon. member for Vancouver East attempts to introduce official languages into the bill, a proposition which was not contemplated when the bill was read a second time. This has caused the Chair serious concern. After careful review, the Chair must rule Motion No. 3 out of order and in support of this position I would refer all hon. members to Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, Citation 773.

[Translation]

Motion No. 4 standing in the name of the hon. member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville raises procedural difficulties because it introduces into the legislation a Commissioner of Multiculturalism. The subject matter of this motion was generally considered in committee and it will not be selected for this reason as well as the fact that it goes beyond the scope of the bill as agreed to at second reading.

Citation 773, subsection (1) of Beauchesne's 5th Edition stipulates that "An amendment is out of order if it is irrelevant to the bill, beyond its scope or governed by or dependent upon amendments already negated."

[English]

In addition Motion No. 4 appears to infringe the Royal Recommendation which accompanied this bill on its introduction, contrary to Citation 540 of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition.

For these reasons, it is with regret that I must inform the House that Motion No. 4 will not be put to the House for debate.

[Translation]

Motion No. 5 is also attempting to introduce a new concept into this bill by having the Canadian Human Rights Commission "monitor the implementation of multiculturalism" among other things. This is completely foreign to the bill as it was given second reading and approval in principle. In support of my view that this is not acceptable, I would refer hon. members to Beauchesne's 5th edition, citation 773.

[English]

I would like to thank all hon. members for their co-operation as always.

I will now propose Motion No. 1 to the House.

• (1530)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Kamloops on a point of order.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, now that we have heard the ruling by Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that the first motion to be debated is in the name of the hon. member for Vancouver East who, unfortunately, is unable to be here today as a result of constituency work.

There have been some discussions among the parties, Mr. Speaker, and I think you would find unanimous consent to allow me to put the motion so that debate can commence.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is there consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Nelson Riis (for Ms. Mitchell) moved:

Motion No. 1

That Bill C-18 be amended by adding immediately after line 6 at page 1 the following new clause:

"2. In this Act

"multiculturalism" means that fundamental characteristic of Canadian society which recognizes the diversity and equality of all Canadians as regards race, national or ethnic origin, colour and religion".

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have a chance to participate in the report stage of Bill C-18, and in particular to have an opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the hon. member for Vancouver East who has worked so hard during the process of this bill on behalf of the ethnocultural communities of the country.

The hon. member regrets that she is unable to be here but it is as a result of constituency business. In my discussions on this bill I have not felt very good having to deal with this piece of legislation today.

As the hon. minister will know, when Bill C-18, an act to establish the Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship, was first introduced, by and large it was seen as a housekeeping bill. It appeared that the government had made a commitment to multiculturalism in the country and had encouraged the enhancement of citizenship organizations. This bill was seen as very much an appropriate step for the government to be taking.