Government Orders

[English]

Motions Nos. 41A and 46A are grouped for debate, and a vote on Motion No. 41A will apply to Motion No. 46A.

[Translation]

Motion No. 42A will be debated and voted on separately.

[English]

Motions Nos. 58 and 60 are grouped for debate but will be voted on separately.

[Translation]

Motion No. 68 will be debated and voted on separately.

[English]

Motion No. 78 will be debated and voted on separately.

• (1210)

I will now propose Motions Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 48, 51, 52, 59, 63, 64, 65, 69, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 87 and 89.

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am wondering if the Chair could perhaps make available numerous copies of that particular decision to members who are in the House so that we can have a prudent debate for the remaining part of the day, because there are a lot of decisions which have been reached in accordance with the debate.

While I am on my feet, I am wondering if I might raise a concern while the minister is in the House. I presume that as we get to each of the amendments the minister will want to give a brief and succinct description of those amendments so that members of the House, particularly those who have not been privy to the debate at committee stage, will completely understand what the minister is attempting to do in making changes to the legislation which is under question.

I say that in order to try to facilitate the debate and the reasonableness with which the opposition approaches the subject matter.

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, the minister will not be getting up and making those comments today. I am

asking my colleague from Mississauga South who has been intimately involved in the process from day one and probably knows more about the Bank Act and the Trust Act, et cetera, than any other member of Parliament. I would think that is fair to say, except maybe my friend from Nickel Belt might lay claim to that.

I am sure that you will be interested in the comments by my colleague from Mississauga South who can handle this debate very well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I have no difficulties with the minister's response. However, just so that it is crystal clear, the hon. member who has been a distinguished member on the finance committee for quite some time is in fact speaking completely on behalf of the government and the minister opposite is concurring with the views and the interventions which will be made by the hon. member opposite. It is just not a member of the finance committee making a few comments, but it is the government view. Am I right in my understanding of what the minister has put before the House?

Mr. McDermid: That puts me in a tough position, Mr. Speaker. However I do have faith in my colleague from Mississauga South that he will fairly represent the government's point of view on these amendments to the House of Commons.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, we who have followed the history of these bills in committee have found that they are extremely complex bills and that the route was very tortuous. We dealt with Bill C-4, for example, and we finished will Bills C-19, C-28 and C-34. I want to say that I do not find it very professional that we would get 100 amendments to Bill C-4 hours before we come here to enter into debate on these very complex bills.

The opposition amendments have been in for two weeks now. Lo and behold we get these 100 amendments this morning and have to try to sift through them, sort through them, and even at this late stage we are approached by the government because in one of the amendments it forgot a section and will need unanimous approval to put it in and in Bill C-28 it missed several amendments.

I want to say that this was not a well organized operation. It has been very confusing, and now this morning is the latest in that series. I want to say that I hope the debate goes a lot better than what has presaged events this morning.