

Government Orders

Mr. Waddell: No, Mr. Speaker, I was going to suggest that I have a 10-minute speech, and I could deal with that while the Chair is having a further look at the matter.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): My understanding is that there is really no problem as far as the translation if you look at the bill and the meaning of the motion. You are comparing the lines as the English is compared to the French. I think that if you read the whole text of the motion in the bill, you will find that there is no problem with the translation. But, we will check it, and come back to hon. members. I am pleased that hon. members have brought it to my attention.

Does the hon. member for Richelieu have another point of order, and if he does, will he please sit down first before I recognize him? Please sit.

Is it a point of order that the hon. member wishes to raise? I will recognize him on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): I get the impression, Mr. Speaker, that you are glossing over the comments we just made. This is very serious, because I wonder how, in any case, we could postpone debate on Motion No. 14 since we now know the substance of the motion and the hon. member's intent.

We approve, in fact I fully support the amendment moved by the hon. member, except that when I read it in French, the text says that only—listen carefully: “—un service d'information continue assujetti—”. So I thought this was a reference to the existing English network. In the English version, however, it says “—in English and French—”, implying that another network should be added. That makes all the difference!

Members from Quebec, in the Progressive Conservative Party, the Bloc quebecois or the Liberal Party, would have liked to intervene in this debate and of course support this amendment, in order to oblige the government to provide two networks, one French and one English, in the all-news field. The amendment failed to specify that, so that today, we have been caught unaware, that is if we only read the amendments, and of course we can't read all the bills every day. But if we read only the amendment, it will be difficult to intervene rapidly, since the debate on this series of amendments will end at one o'clock.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to consider a solution that would allow us to debate this motion at greater length at another time.

[*English*]

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, this is not a government amendment. On the point of order, I believe the principle that has been expressed is accurate. I think it is a valid point of order. I think that the French version does not convey the same meaning as the English version. It falls far short of doing that, and I would urge you, Sir, and those who so capably assist you, to deal with the matter expeditiously so that as the debate proceeds an opinion can be sought from the Chair so whatever appropriate corrective measures can be taken so that we will be dealing with the amendment having the same meaning in both languages. I think that is a fundamental principle of this place.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): This is exactly what we plan to do. I appreciate the parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for Richelieu, the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam, and the hon. member for Mount Royal for bringing it to the attention of the Chair. I always feel that the legal translation, both English and French, may be a little different but it still comes out to the same thing. But we will at least have a look at it and get back to the hon. member.

• (1220)

I have to recognize somebody else on debate. A point of order?

Mrs. Finestone: —Chair or the Table with a sense of clarity. As it was my amendment, I can tell you that the intent is as expressed in motion No. 14(m) and it was with respect to English and French subject to the applicable statutes so that we could have a continuous all-news service in both languages. If there needs to be any clarity or assurance there, may I assure you that that was my intent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There is one explanation for it. Therefore, I will now recognize the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, just to point out again that what has happened here is that the member for Mount Royal, the Liberal critic, has moved a number of amendments, Nos. 12, 13, 14, and 15.