

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. members have heard the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Haidasz). Is there unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is so ordered.

PRIVATE BILLS

UNITED BANK OF CANADA

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-164, to incorporate United Bank of Canada, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, at this report stage of Bill C-164 I should like to move the following amendment:

That Bill C-164 be amended by substituting the word "unity" or "l'unité", as the case may be, in the title thereof for the word "united" or "unie" and elsewhere in the bill as required.

• (1700)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Unanimous consent is required to move the amendment at this point, notice not having been given. Is there consent that the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Haidasz) be allowed to move the amendment at this point?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Haidasz: Then I so move, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion (Mr. Haidasz) agreed to.

Mr. Haidasz moved that Bill C-164, to incorporate Unity Bank of Canada, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, be concurred in.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): I would like to make a few brief comments at this time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The motion before the House is on the report stage of the bill. The hon. member might wish to deal with it at a subsequent stage.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): No, Mr. Speaker, unless I reserve my position completely. The fact is that we are debating the bill this afternoon by consent. I want to point out a practice which seems to have arisen in the filing of reports by various chairmen of committees.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do I understand that the hon. member is rising on a point of order?

Private Bills

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is right, Mr. Speaker. Today the report was tabled and it included the provision that the evidence and the minutes of the committee be tabled therewith. The committee completed its deliberations at one o'clock this afternoon, and the report was deficient; I will not say misleading. I have been told, and I have ascertained it, that many chairmen are doing this. I would say that that is totally wrong.

A committee chairman can come here with the report of the committee and the evidence and the minutes of the meetings attached to it. Then hon. members must wait 48 hours before they can discuss the report, unless it is done by consent. This business of trying to slide things through must stop. Hon. members are being asked to decide on a motion before the House not having had one moment's opportunity to look at the evidence. There is no way that we can do this.

I am raising this as a point of order as I do not particularly want to pick out the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. I take it that this happened on a previous occasion with Bill C-8. I know this because the transcript of the evidence of last Tuesday morning was published only this morning just before ten o'clock. It was certainly not available when the report of the committee was tabled last Tuesday. As I said, this is happening with other committee chairmen who have come here with reports from their committees. That is against the rules, and I think we should stick to the rules in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. members know that we are on a point of order. The motion before the House is for adoption at the report stage. I can only put the motion with the unanimous consent of hon. members, and I take it the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) has indicated, for the reasons he has expressed, that he is not giving his consent.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): No, Mr. Speaker; I am giving my consent under the circumstances, but I wanted to raise the point of order because this should not happen again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I thank the hon. member for clarifying the point. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haidasz moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I would like to make a few comments with regard to this proposal. It is not often that we get a bill before the House to incorporate a bank. This is one of the few occasions that have been reserved for private bills following the change in our procedure. Following the amendment, the bank is now called the Unity Bank of Canada. I must say that having gone through all sorts of travail in the committee this morning and votes on the word "United", I do not think the soup could be spoiled more than by this change of name. How-