

*B.C. Telephone*

affairs generally "La Compagnie de Téléphone de la Colombie-Britannique".

[Translation]

I see that the hon. member for Saint-Boniface (Mr. Guay) is interested in this matter. I think, Mr. Speaker, that this idea was submitted and approved by all the members of the committee.

[English]

The company is very agreeable to the idea, and I hope the Chair will allow me to propose the amendment, as at the committee stage, if there is unanimous agreement. The company itself suggested the amendment which I present on its behalf. If we do not proceed in this way, the company will have to present another bill later to accomplish the same purpose.

I understand the spirit of the rule of procedure is such that in order to do something of this nature I require the unanimous consent of hon. members. I hope that my colleagues, in the spirit that existed in the committee when everybody agreed to the idea presented by the company, will allow me to propose this amendment which would allow the company to use that French form of its name. If everyone is agreeable, I hope a procedural argument will not prevent this bill from being accepted. Otherwise there will have to be another bill, with the whole burden that implies.

This whole matter is important, although not in itself, to what we are trying to do. As the member for Matane, I represent 20 or 30 English-speaking families and I insist that all federal buildings have bilingual signs. I do this as a matter of fairness. I have explained why this company's name must be bilingual.

[Translation]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I must nevertheless interrupt the hon. member, for we are now discussing the point of procedure in question and not necessarily his amendment. If he continues he will have completed his intervention before the Chair even decides whether to accept the amendment.

I must say to the hon. member that all the points he made are more debatable than procedural matters. I am convinced no other hon. member will disagree with all the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané) said but he must nevertheless understand that the Chair is bound by the rules, and the Constitution of Canada or the rules of this House cannot be changed through the Chair. I think it is important that I draw the attention of hon. members to very specific rules, the most difficult of which might be rule No. 105—and by ricochet it applies both to the hon. member and the report of the committee of the House—which states, and I quote:

105. It is the duty of the committee to which any private bill may be referred by the House, to call the attention of the House specially to any provisions inserted in such bill that does not appear to have been contemplated in the notice or petition for the same, as reported upon by the Examiner of Petitions . . .

The hon. member said to the House he has in his hand a letter from the company stating that it would be happy to have its name made bilingual. Of course, the normal channel to have that change made would be for the company to have a new private bill introduced to amend its name.

[Mr. De Bané.]

Having said that, although hon. members do not doubt the word of their colleague, neither the Chair nor any member of this House have a copy of that letter, and the rules of this House do not provide for the tabling of such documents. I think everyone will agree to take the word of the hon. member. I must also refer him to different citations from Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms respecting amendments, particularly citation 202 on page 169 and citation 203 on page 171 which state explicitly, and I quote:

203. (1) It is an imperative rule that every amendment must be relevant to the question on which the amendment is proposed.

The hon. member knows that the bill before us is a bill on the financing of the company, which has never been presented to the House to amend the name of the company or some other aspects of its administration.

If the hon. member keeps on reading citation 203, he will come to paragraph (3), and I quote:

(3) An amendment setting forth a proposition dealing with a matter which is foreign to the proposition involved in the main motion is not relevant and cannot be moved.

This being said, and considering that hon. members seem to be in a good mood and considering also the limited effect of the amendment the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané) is proposing at the report stage, which nonetheless raises an important point as the hon. member said, the Chair would be willing to consider the motion and let the House decide. But that could be done only by unanimous consent.

[English]

I do not know whether all members followed my remarks, but the Chair feels that this kind of amendment should not be accepted in our general procedure. Noting that the intent of the bill is not to amend in any way the name of the company, or anything other than the financial structure, and noting the co-operation that seems to exist following the remarks of the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané), if there is unanimous consent the Chair would be ready to accept the amendment for debate. Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. De Bané:** I have one note of particular interest.

● (1730)

[Translation]

**Mr. De Bané** moved That Bill S-11, An Act respecting British Columbia Telephone Company, be amended by adding immediately after line 9 at page 8, the following clause:

"6. The following is added as section 25 of chapter 66 of the Statute of 1916, as amended, namely:

"25. The Company may use as the French form of its name, in the transaction of business and its affairs generally, «La Compagnie de Téléphone de la Colombie-Britannique»."

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

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.