

*Judges Act*

or two other corrections that should be made in the French version of these motions. It seems to me if we are going to have amendments moved to the bill, they should fit the bill in the form in which it is now before us.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I understand the point raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), but it would be very difficult at this stage for the Chair to identify all these corrections. The hon. member has brought to the attention of the House the corrections to be made in connection with motion No. 1. Perhaps I should refer the hon. member to Standing Order 75(7), which states:

An amendment, in relation to form only in a government bill, may be proposed by a minister of the Crown without notice, but debate thereon may not be extended to the provisions of the clause or clauses to be amended.

● (1450)

Perhaps at this stage, if the hon. member could inform the House of the modification to be made we could proceed with the amendments so long as they are brought to the attention of the House.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I am not seeking, under the guise of a procedural point, to delay consideration of this measure this afternoon, but I do insist that we follow the rules. The rule you just cited, I submit, does not cover this situation at all. That rule permits the making of what is, in effect, a consequential amendment. The plain fact of the matter is that the wording of these motions as they appear on the order paper is faulty. They were obviously drafted by someone who did not look at the bill in the form in which it is before the House. I am prepared for the correction to be made before we proceed with these motions, but let us do it properly.

**Mr. Poulin:** Mr. Speaker, I was chairman of the committee on justice and legal affairs at the time the amendments were presented. I presume the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is referring to amendments which are now intended to be made at the report stage, and that he has no objection to those amendments that were made at the earlier stage before the committee and were passed.

Speaking as one who was present for all the proceedings on this bill before the standing committee, I may say I have not had an opportunity to see numerically the lines to which these amendments mentioned by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre should refer. It may well be that we could verify what the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has said. I believe there is agreement on his part, from what I heard him say, that we proceed so long as the lines are referred to in the correct order.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The hon. member is correct in saying I am not raising a procedural point in respect of the amendments passed in the committee, although I did study them carefully to see if I could find something wrong with them. It is clear that they were made within the terms of the royal recommendation.

What we now have before the House is a reprinted bill as amended in the committee, and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) is proposing report stage amendments to that reprinted bill. Royal recommendations are required, and he has presented the royal recommendations. My point, however, is that if we passed motion No. 1 in its present form we would be making a change which would not make sense because of the lines listed and a few other things which are incorrect. It is a simple matter to make the corrections, but surely the way in which we do it should be correct.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** I think there is some sense in the suggestion of the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin). Perhaps we might take a few moments, provided we do not take too long, to see whether there is some way in which the changes might be made. Although I do not know whether this is possible, perhaps by unanimous consent something could be done in respect of the order paper this afternoon so that we could proceed with the matter. I am sure all members wish the matter to be pursued and disposed of.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I say that the mistakes are not the mistakes of the committee. The hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin) is not on the spot. It is the Minister of Justice who has put down the report stage amendments and has not worded them correctly.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is quite right when he says the motions before us now do not correspond to the reprinted copy of the bill. I must bring to his attention that the bill was reported back on Wednesday this week, and the minister had to give notice of his amendments which are amendments to the bill which was before the committee. To my mind, the reprinting of a bill is more for the convenience of members than for the purpose of changing the bill on which the committee has worked. I understand the point raised by the hon. member, which is that we would be examining amendments that do not correspond to the reprint of the bill which is before hon. members.

Unless someone has a solution to propose to the Chair, I think perhaps we should set aside this order for the moment and go to another order of business.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, may I say that the amendment is not a substantive amendment. Surely the bill could be considered at this stage as amended, unless my friend from Winnipeg North Centre can point out that this is a very serious amendment related to the substance of the bill. If he could do that, I would be sympathetic to his viewpoint, but surely we should not delay this matter on such a small point of procedure. With the greatest respect, I think the error was made when the documents were handed to you, sir. But surely we can debate the bill. The amendment is not one of great substance.

**Mr. Poulin:** Mr. Speaker, I know the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre does not wish unnecessarily to delay consideration of this bill on a technicality. I think if we take these amendments which are before us and relate