

Mr. Godin, seconded by Mr. Gauthier (Roberval), moved in amendment thereto,—That the motion be amended by adding immediately after the words “cost of living increases”, the following words:

“and because there was no thought given to financial reforms that would permit the combatting of price increases and inflation by the following measures; compensated discounts and new credits given by the Bank of Canada to finance all new productions”.

And debate arising thereon;

RULING BY MR. ACTING SPEAKER

MR. ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Laniel): Before recognizing the honourable Member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) who had the floor at six o'clock, I wish to return to the amendment that has been proposed by the honourable Member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin). Before inviting honourable Members to make a contribution on the procedural aspects may I say that I am just about ready to let the amendment be put to the House, for reasons that I will explain.

Honourable Members know that the Chair indicated, when the honourable Member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin) moved his motion before the House adjourned at 6.00 o'clock p.m., that it would be willing, at 8.00 o'clock p.m. to hear the arguments on whether or not it is in order.

I must say, at this point, that I am very reticent, from the procedural point of view about accepting the amendment in its present form. First of all, the first part of the amendment does not, to my mind, alter the main motion, and referring honourable Members to Beauchesne's citation 202(15), the Chair should, normally, reject an amendment which, all in all, would only confirm what is already stated in the main motion.

The greatest difficulty arises about the second part of the amendment. Indeed, the proposal of the honourable Member for Portneuf is an entirely new motion whose object is not anticipated in the main motion.

The Chair is reluctant to accept such an amendment, because we are holding today a debate on a non-confidence motion in the government. Still the mover has the privilege of choosing the subject-matter of his motion and if one is allowed to introduce amendments deviating from the subject, even if it deals with a related field, those amendments are entirely different proposals and I think that it is an abuse of the privileges granted to the mover of the main motion.

This being said, I think that honourable Members can find all the arguments concerning such a decision which could be reached in the citations from Beauchesne, citation 203, paragraphs (1), (3) and (5).

According to me, the second part of the amendment presented by the honourable Member for Portneuf should normally require previous notice which should have

appeared on the Order Paper, but anyway, in the circumstances, that point will not influence my decision. I only want to warn honourable Members against the danger of allowing that kind of procedural laxity, particularly in the case of a non-confidence motion, a laxity from which the first to suffer would be honourable Members who, occasionally, wish to propose such non-confidence motions.

However, we are today holding a debate of utmost importance because the matter discussed is after all basic in terms of the existence or survival of a government and instead of using a period of 30 to 60 minutes for procedural discussion, inviting honourable Members to enlighten the Chair and reach a final decision, I deemed in all justice and equity for those who have presented the main motion, I ought to accept the amendment while restating however my doubts concerning its form, and particularly concerning the terms of the second part of the said amendment.

Considering those reserves, and at the same time while warning honourable Members, I, therefore intend to accept the amendment and submit it to the House.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Gillies, seconded by Mr. Baldwin,—That this House no longer has confidence in the government which, by its weak and stubborn adherence to outmoded policies, increasingly burdens the people of Canada with grievous cost of living increases.

And on the motion of Mr. Godin, seconded by Mr. Gauthier (Roberval), in amendment thereto,—That the motion be amended by adding immediately after the words “cost of living increases”, the following words:

“and because there was no thought given to financial reforms that would permit the combatting of price increases and inflation by the following measures; compensated discounts and new credits given by the Bank of Canada to finance all new productions”.

After further debate, at 9.45 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker interrupted the debate pursuant to Standing Order 58(9);

And the question being put on the said proposed amendment, it was negatived on the following division:

(Division No. 30)

YEAS

Messrs.

Allard
Caouette
(Charlevoix)

Dionne
Gauthier
(Roberval)

Godin
Latulippe
Matte
Rondeau—8.