And a point of order having been raised as to the form of the proposed motion, the said motion was not received.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Lessard (LaSalle), seconded, by Mr. Francis,—That the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, presented to the House on Wednesday, March 19, 1969, be concurred in.

And debate continuing;

Mr. Allmand, seconded by Mr. Breau, moved,—That the said report be not now concurred in but that it be recommitted to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications with instructions that they delete from the report the paragraph thereof, which reads as follows: "Your Committee recommends that the Order of the Canadian Transport Commission, authorizing the Canadian National Railways to suspend rail passenger service in Newfoundland on April 5, 1969, be left in abeyance, until your Committee tables its complete report in respect to this question.

And a point of order having been raised by the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) as to the substance of the proposed motion;

RULING BY MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank honourable Members for their contributions to the discussion. I have in fact done some preliminary research in anticipation that this matter might be raised. The arguments put forward by the honourable Member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) and by the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) do raise points which need to be considered very carefully but I suggest that there are citations other than those they have chosen which are categoric on this important question.

First, I should like to refer to the decision of Mr. Speaker Rhodes as found in Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms at page 690: "When a motion is made for the adoption of a report of a committee it is competent for the house to adopt it, or to reject it, or to refer it back to the committee with or without instructions."

A citation which is probably more relevant and more particular, and one which in this particular case I have to treat as decisive in deciding this question, is Beauchesne's citation 326 as it appears on page 252: "The report of a Standing Committee should be considered final only when it is adopted by the House, because, until then, the House can refer it back to the committee with instruction to amend it in any particular."

I am therefore obliged to rule that the amendment as proposed by the honourable Member for Notre Dame de Grâce (Mr. Allmand) is in order.

And debate arising thereon;

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre), seconded by Mrs. MacInnis, proposed to move in amendment thereto,—That the motion be amended by adding at the end thereof the following words: "and that the Members of the said Standing Committee be discharged, since the passing of this motion, as amended, constitutes a vote of non-confidence in the said Members."

And debate continuing;