

Criminal Code

Then, should it happen that this amendment on which the vote is being deferred were carried, which would mean that clause 7 would be struck off Bill C-150, I think that amendments 6, 7 and 8 would no longer serve any purpose.

I wonder why amendments Nos. 3 and 4 should not be voted on and then we could decide whether amendments Nos. 6, 7 and 8 have to be discussed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I think it was agreed yesterday that votes would be deferred and taken when the study of clauses 1 to 11 is completed.

Should amendment No. 3 be voted down, amendment No. 4 would be dropped by the same token. We shall now proceed with amendment No. 6.

• (9:50 p.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi) moved:

That Bill C-150, an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatory Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, be amended by deleting in clause 7 paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of the proposed new section 149A.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. With the greatest of respect, I think the house failed to reach agreement on the procedure yesterday. There would be no objection on this side if a vote were called on these two particular amendments at the moment. I admit that you have a discretion within the rule to defer division under rule 75(11). I think the agreement was not achieved, so it is within your discretion. We, on the government side, of the house would be quite willing to have the vote called on these two particular amendments now.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I am informed that the Speaker has deferred the vote, as he has the right and privilege to do, according to rule 75(11).

Mr. Woolliams: On a point of order. I would like to ask you for direction. Do I take it the chair is deferring the vote on these 11 amendments until we complete this phase of the bill? I think we should have some direction in this regard. We have to know where we are going.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): It is the understanding of the chair that the vote will
[Mr. Laprise.]

be taken after the completion of the study of amendments 1 to 11. The vote will be taken at the end of the consideration of amendment number 11, as mentioned yesterday by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Woolliams: With the greatest of respect I agree that is good practice, but that was not the ruling. Now, it has been made clear and we at least know where we are going.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): We are now considering amendment No. 6.

[*Translation*]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The hon. member for Lotbinière rises on a point of order.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I understand that we will vote tomorrow on amendments Nos. 1 to 11 taken together. Is that correct?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The Chair does not know at present whether amendments 1 to 11 will be voted on tomorrow. What has been mentioned and agreed upon yesterday is that the question will be put once the house has considered amendments 1 to 11 inclusive. When amendment 11 has been disposed of, the vote will be taken on the amendments.

[*English*]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I agree with what you are saying and I agree that this is what was understood yesterday, but is there not one point that should be made clear, namely, that after we have disposed of amendments Nos. 1 to 11 we will take the votes all right but only on those amendments on which votes have been called by the standing at least five members?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): That is correct.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, we realize to what extent the new standing orders adopted on December 20th last can give rise to complications. Indeed we have found it difficult to know exactly at what stage we are.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I feel somewhat puzzled tonight to move this amendment, which bears No. 11 in the order paper, to the effect that Bill C-150 be amended by deleting