

Yukon and Territorial Lands Act

and the Territorial Lands Act." In my submission, that is a pretty broad title. Mr. Driedger says:

At one time the United Kingdom parliamentary rules respecting titles to bills were closely followed in Canada, but lately there has been considerable relaxation. A wide range of discussion is permitted on any bill, even though it may not be strictly relevant to the terms of the bill, and amendments are generally permitted even though they do not fall strictly within the terms of the bill.

Mr. Driedger's argument, Mr. Speaker, is the weakest argument I can bring, with all respect to him. The strongest argument I can make is that Parliament has already seized itself of section 24. My third argument, but second in order of importance, is that by necessary implication section 24 is capable of amendment.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to prolong the debate on this subject, but I wish to point out to the Chair that all the amendments moved by the hon. member go far beyond the scope of the legislation that was proposed and which is before us. The argument brought forward by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), to the effect that because we succeeded at the committee stage in bringing about a debate or in moving an amendment to section 24 of the Yukon Act does not justify in any way the attempt to do so at this stage. I have reason to believe that this proposal should not have been accepted at the committee stage. In any event, all the amendments moved by the hon. member are irrelevant. They may be of value but I cannot even discuss their merit since they go far beyond the scope of the legislation proposed by the government. Therefore, I must ask Your Honour to rule out of order the amendments proposed by my hon. friend the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen).

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In normal circumstances the hon. member for Yukon could not speak a second time. However, since this is a very interesting point, perhaps the House would allow him to make the additional point which I think he is now seeking to make, which may enlighten the Chair.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I did not wish to deal with another point but merely to add
[Mr. Nielsen.]

something I had forgotten to mention. I simply wish to say that page 3 of the bill as reprinted contains subclause 5 of clause 5, so that section 24 of the Yukon Act is before the House.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for his assistance. I have to tell him that even in light of the very cogent and interesting argument he has submitted for the guidance of the Chair, I find it difficult to overcome my original misgivings. The hon. member must realize that even if we are seized, as he proposes, with section 24 of the original act, even if, as he says, it is indirectly before the House by virtue of subclause 5 of clause 5 of the bill, and even if there is reference in the royal recommendation to section 24 of the act, all that put together does not indicate that the section itself is in the bill and can be amended.

The argument is very interesting. I am quite prepared to admit that something can be said for the argument that we have, in an indirect way, section 24 of the act before us. When I first saw these amendments I immediately went to the act because I noticed that in the original bill we touched on sections 22 and 26. We did not touch on section 24. I felt that obviously we were trying to go behind the bill and amend the act. I had not thought of the arguments which have been advanced by the hon. member. Even in light of these amendments, even though we have indirectly to concern ourselves with section 24, I do not think that under our rules it is possible to use this argument to justify the amendment of an act which is not before us.

It is well known to the hon. member for Yukon and to the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), who listens to this ruling with intense interest, that we cannot at this stage, in committee or at any time, introduce an amendment which goes beyond the terms of the bill itself, when it is an amending bill, and attempt to amend the original statute. It is very difficult to do this. I have very seldom seen it done satisfactorily. Let me say that perhaps the hon. member has come very close this time. He has given us good authority for doing so, and I certainly respect the authority of Mr. Driedger to whom the hon. member referred.

Against that I must put the authority of Messrs. May and Beauchesne; they, too, must be taken into account. I believe that in previous rulings this afternoon Mr. Deputy Speaker brought to the attention of the House the