

Computer Crime

different matter into the points of order previously raised. Does the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen) wish to contribute to the points just raised?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious there have been discussions taking place while I was attempting to rise and deliver my address. I have read the Bill. It is not a bad Bill but I think the subject matter is even better.

I do not know if this is in line with the rules, but I would like to suggest that we seek unanimous consent of the House to have the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Chair cannot receive suggestions and put them to the House in the manner in which the Hon. Member has presented them. The Chair can deal with formal proposals. Again, I now draw Hon. Members' attention to Standing Order 56(1) which reads:

The previous question, until it is decided, shall preclude all amendment of the main question, and shall be in the following words, 'That this question be now put'.

Therefore, we are now at the point where the Chair has accepted the motion from the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor). It is quite in order. Under our rules and practices, debate may continue on the main motion. If, at some point in the course of the next hour, no Members rise to contribute further to the debate, the Chair will put the motion moved by the Hon. Member for Bow River to the House. At that point, depending on what happens, the Chair could then immediately put the question on the main motion.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, I think there is a genuine attempt by the Parliamentary Secretary to act in good faith here. I think that all of us have a responsibility to reciprocate. As you pointed out, we are going through uncharted territory. This issue is quite new to the House because of the provisional rules.

I suspect that if the Hon. Member for Bow River were permitted to withdraw his motion, we would then be in a position where, by unanimous consent of the House, we could reach the agreement that the subject matter of my Bill be sent to committee.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I was attempting to get your attention in that regard. Once the motion has been accepted, it is the property of the House. However, I believe, with the consent of the mover and the seconder, the motion can be withdrawn. I would therefore suggest we do it that way.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Chair needs the unanimous consent of the House, not simply that of the mover and the seconder.

Mr. Lewycky: Mr. Speaker, there certainly would be unanimous consent on the part of the NDP to proceed on the suggestion that was made so that we would withdraw the original point of order and make sure that we send this subject as a reference to the committee.

• (1845)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The House will ask Hon. Members if there is unanimous consent to allow the Hon. Member for Bow River to withdraw his motion on the previous question? Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Agreed and so ordered. Motion withdrawn.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The main motion is now debatable. It is now before the House.

Mr. MacBain: Mr. Speaker, is this the correct time to move that the subject matter of Bill C-667 be referred to the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary cannot at this time make that motion because he has already spoken. However, with the unanimous consent of the House, perhaps he could be allowed to proceed with that motion.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, would it be in order to amend that motion and put a time limit on it so that the House could have it back in order to deal with it? Could we amend the motion by adding "report back to the House by June 30, 1983"?

Mr. Lewycky: Mr. Speaker, is there not a motion already on the floor that has to be disposed of before we attempt to bring in another motion?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Of course, the Chair cannot deal with another motion until we have disposed of this one.

Does the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) wish me to comment on his remarks?

Mr. Lewis: No, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw my remarks.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I will then put the motion to the House. Moved by the Hon. Member for Niagara Falls (Mr. MacBain), seconded by the Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty), in amendment thereto:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word 'That' and substituting the following therefor:

Bill C-667, an Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Evidence Act in respect of computer crime, be not now read a second time but that the Order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject-matter thereof referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion (Mr. MacBain) agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Accordingly, the order is discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter thereof