

*Yukon Act*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** Order, please. May I inform the Minister of Public Works that the amendment has been ruled out of order.

**Mr. Lambert:** But for the reason you gave?

**Mr. McIlraith:** I was going to suggest, if it meets the wishes of hon. members, that I be allowed to move the adjournment of the debate at this stage. I am not prepared at the moment to agree that the bill, after second reading, go to committee. I am not prepared at the moment to say whether or not the government is agreeable to it being referred to a committee. If it were agreeable, I would move the adjournment of the debate and we can then immediately proceed with the forestry estimates.

**Mr. Lambert:** It is not debatable.

**Mr. McIlraith:** That is why I did not formally put the motion for the adjournment of the debate before finding out if there is any consensus against it.

• (2:50 p.m.)

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** It is not often, Mr. Speaker, that I take part in these discussions on procedural matters. At this particular juncture of our discussion I think the issue is so important that I should like to make some suggestions and comments. I recall that in so far as the proposed amendments to the Northwest Territories Act were concerned we were faced with a similar situation. We made suggestions to the then house leader, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, that we thought it would be in the best interests of the business procedures of this house if the bill which sought to divide the Northwest Territories could be referred to the standing committee. In this way it would have been possible for hon. members to hear representations directly from the northerners affected. This procedure was adopted then and before the bill was read the second time it was referred to the standing committee. The results were rather significant inasmuch as we discovered that the contents of the bill were not necessarily in the best interests of the people of the Northwest Territories.

With reference to the present bill, No. C-147, I presume that the reason the amendment was ruled out of order was a certain weakness in the terminology. If that is the case, then perhaps we might get around that difficulty by submitting another amendment

[Mr. McIlraith.]

that would deal with the terminological difficulties. The reason I am most concerned is the disappointment that was felt, I think on all sides of the house, with reference to our handling of Bill No. C-146. It was our feeling that this bill should be referred to a standing committee. A decision has been made, and that has not been possible.

**Mr. McIlraith:** I wonder if I could ask the hon. gentleman a question? When he says that has not been possible, may I remind him I just asserted that we wanted to consider whether or not that was possible. I was raising that point when I made way for the hon. member because I thought he was going to express an opinion upon whether or not that should be done. I said I would have the adjournment of the debate moved at that time so that we could consider whether or not to refer it to a committee. I just have not had an opportunity yet to consider whether it should or should not be referred to a committee.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** As I understand it, the leader of the house was going to put forward a motion that this debate be now adjourned.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Yes.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** We seem to be in a bit of difficulty here because, as I understand it, the Speaker has indicated that the proposed amendment is out of order. Perhaps we can get around this—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):** Order. The Minister of Public Works, on behalf of the government, has expressed a wish that the house should adjourn—

**Mr. McIlraith:** The debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret):**—that the debate should be adjourned. Such a wish should be expressed in the form of a motion which could then be considered by the house. The hon. member wishes to move a new amendment, and I think we should clarify our position.

**Mr. Robichaud:** I move that this debate be now adjourned.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Brandon-Souris has the floor and is speaking on the second reading of this bill. I submit that the Minister of Fisheries is not in order in attempting to keep the hon. member for Brandon-Souris from moving an amendment.