

Government Orders

I thought the Speaker might want to entertain some thoughts that we in the Official Opposition have regarding a very important matter.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you are aware, this issue was raised yesterday or the day before by way of a forewarning by the House leader for the Liberal Party.

I indicated at that time I had some concerns because it sounded to me like he was entering into a debate about a particular Standing Order and possible changes or interpretations of it. I continue to have those concerns because if it is a matter of a change to the Standing Orders, then we have a number of vehicles that are available for that, such as the management committee.

I am quite concerned, Mr. Speaker, that we get into a debate that I am not sure is really a proper debate via a point of order. I think there are other vehicles by which we could discuss it, and we certainly would be happy on this side to discuss it with him. I, personally, would be quite prepared to discuss it with the hon. member and the Speaker and whoever else might be interested in this subject.

Mr. Speaker: My sense of things at the moment is that it would be better at least if the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond and the parliamentary secretary discuss the matter. They might want to indicate to me if they wish to pursue the specific question of the order itself at an appropriate time.

My disposition against getting into a discussion now is that it is going to be very difficult to have a discussion on this order without it being tied to the decision which I have just had to make. I think it would be better for the House if that did not take place at this moment.

I would ask the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond if he would like to consider his position and perhaps give me some indication tomorrow morning if he wants to pursue the matter.

Mr. Dingwall: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to proceed tomorrow at the first opportunity with regard to this particular provision. I believe it is a legitimate point of

order and what better place to raise a point of order than in the House with colleagues opposite. It would take four or five minutes and may in some circles be of some assistance to the Chair. It is not an attempt to perform or put forward a dilatory motion in any respect. It is a legitimate attempt to raise a point of order on a very important procedure in this House, namely emergency debates pursuant to Standing Order 52.

So, yes to the question as raised by the Chair. Tomorrow would be fine, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I will hear the hon. member immediately after Routine Proceedings tomorrow. I appreciate his co-operation. I am also cognizant of what the hon. parliamentary secretary has said.

With respect to the order, the difficulty that the Chair has with the order is that there is very little guidance to the Chair. There is the element of emergency. It has to be clearly understood that often, as a consequence, matters that are very serious may not necessarily get accepted. I will hear the hon. member tomorrow. I am sure the hon. parliamentary secretary or others may have some comments which may assist us. However, and I know the hon. member will keep this in mind tomorrow, I am bound by the rules as they appear in front of me. If changes are to be made, then of course that is a matter for members to agree upon.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

• (1600)

[English]

CANADA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)) moved that Bill C-48, an act to amend the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act and to amend other acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to Legislative Committee F.