

Canadian Multiculturalism Act

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West) moved:

Motion No. 7

That Bill C-93 be amended in Clause 3 by striking out line 41 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:

"(c) ensure the full and equitable partici-".

[English]

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon) moved:

Motion No. 8

That Bill C-93 be amended in Clause 3 by adding immediately after line 29 at page 4 the following:

"(k) encourage the youth of Canada to nurture the multicultural heritage of Canadians while seeking a full participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of Canada."

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Lastly, Motion No. 30.

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon) moved:

Motion No. 30

That Bill C-93 be amended in the Preamble by striking out lines 31 to 36 at page 2 and substituting therefor:

"Canada recognizes the diversity of Canadians as regards race, national or ethnic origin, colour and religion as a fundamental characteristic of Canadian society and is committed to a policy of multiculturalism designed to preserve and enhance the multicultural heritage of Canadians while working to achieve the equality of all Canadians in the economic, social, cultural and political life of Canada;"

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Motion No. 31.

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West) moved:

Motion No. 31

That Bill C-93 be amended in the Preamble by striking out lines 34 to 36 at page 2 and substituting therefor:

"that this multicultural nature is a fundamental characteristic of Canadian society, the Government of Canada desires to preserve and enhance this inherent quality in the continuing evolution of the country;"

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Motion No. 32 is in the name of the Member for Parkdale—High Park. Is there unanimous consent that the motion be moved by the Member for Willowdale?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Marchi: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Member for York West has denied unanimous consent. The motion will not be proceeded with.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motions? The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Epp) on debate.

Mr. Ostrom: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Last week, in the co-operative spirit which existed in this House on the languages Bill, both sides of the House allowed

Members other than the Member in whose name a motion stood to present the motion. We are starting off on the wrong foot again. I would like to ask the Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) to reconsider his denial of unanimous consent for the moving of these amendments.

Mr. Marchi: Madam Speaker, one of the reasons that I did not give unanimous consent is that the amendment proposed by the Member for Parkdale—High Park is found both in an amendment that I will be presenting and in an amendment presented by the New Democratic Committee for multiculturalism. Therefore, no amendments of a substantive nature will be omitted.

Also at heart is the way in which the Standing Committee on Multiculturalism and the legislative committee was treated by the Government which rapidly pushed the Bill through committee, did not listen to witnesses, and did not give critics the opportunity to move the appropriate amendments.

Therefore, as there was no co-operation and respect by the Government and the Minister in committee, we believe that there should be no co-operation offered at this stage.

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, I heard only part of my hon. friend's comments. However, I would like to put on the record what has been understood among House leaders, that is, that my instructions, as we entered this last two weeks, have been that at all times Members of the Opposition would be granted permission to move motions on behalf of other Members in their absence. That in fact happened at report stage on the Air Canada Bill and may have happened on other Bills which I cannot recollect at this moment. However, those are our instructions in order that no Member of the Opposition, nor indeed the opposition Parties, will be foreclosed from placing amendments because of the way in which the Government calls its business.

At this stage it is in the interest of everyone to co-operate, no matter what happened in any committee. I hope that my hon. friend will reconsider because in this business one often finds that the shoe is on the other foot. Even if permission is not given, I stand by my comment that the Government will allow Members, other than the Member in whose name a report stage motion stands on the Order Paper, to move the amendment. In the interests of co-operation and better legislation I hope my hon. friend would reconsider.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Resuming debate. The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Epp).

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Madam Speaker, although we are only at report stage on Bill C-93 one is struck by the importance of this moment in that we have Canada's first multiculturalism Bill returned from the legislative committee for consideration in the House. Without making any comment on certain things which have happened, I want to express my pleasure in the ruling which you rendered a few minutes ago. In surveying the motions on the Order Paper for