

reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee.

SPEAKER'S RULING—MOTIONS IN AMENDMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are 10 motions in the amendment set down in the notice paper at report stage of Bill C-16, an act to establish the Canadian Space Agency and to provide for other matters in relation to space. I have had the opportunity to examine them, and I am now ready to make the ruling.

Motions Nos. 1 and 2 are in order and will be grouped for debate but voted on separately.

Motions Nos. 3, 8, 9, and 10 are also in order and will be grouped for debate but voted on as follows: (a) Motions Nos. 3 and 10 will be voted on separately; (b) an affirmative vote on Motion No. 8 obviates the question being put on Motion No. 9; (c) an negative vote on Motion No. 8 necessitates the question being put on Motion No. 9.

Motion No. 4, standing in the name of the hon. member for Ottawa West, will not be selected because it deals with the same subject as Motion No. 3.

[*Translation*]

Motion No. 5 by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Pagtakhan), is identical to a motion that was moved and debated in the Legislative Committee. For this reason this motion will not be selected.

Motion No. 7 in the name of the same Hon. Member is similar to a motion that was proposed and debated in Committee. However, the Chair is of the opinion that this motion is sufficiently different and therefore I will allow it to be put to the House. It will be grouped for debate with Motion 6 but each will be voted on separately.

I shall now put motions Nos. 1 and 2 to the House.

[*English*]

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap) moved:

Motion No. 1

That Bill C-16 be amended in Clause 5 by striking out line 23 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

Government Orders

“nology for non-military, peaceful purposes;”

and by striking out line 25 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

“space technology for non-military, peaceful purposes to and throughout”.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West) moved:

Motion No. 2

That Bill C-16 be amended in Clause 5 by adding immediately after line 26 at page 2 the following:

“(c.1) assume all existing contracts, memoranda of understanding or other arrangements in the name of Her Majesty in right of Canada related to its functions;”.

Mr. MacWilliam: Mr. Speaker, both Motion No. 1 and Motion No. 2 attempt to establish clearly defined limitations in the mandate and the operational structure of the proposed space agency.

• (1020)

I would like to concentrate my remarks particularly on Motion No. 1. The current bill before the House outlines that the proposed space agency shall promote “the peaceful use and development of space”.

It was argued in committee, and I think the argument is valid, that although the term “peaceful use and development of space” indicates that we will be seeking to use the mandate of the agency for non-aggressive military purposes, the argument can be made that the term “peaceful use” does not preclude the use of this agency for non-aggressive military purposes.

During committee stage the minister acknowledged that the agency could actually become involved in a type of non-aggressive military action. The minister gave the indication, by way of example, of the launching and maintenance of surveillance satellite systems.

The crux of the argument lies in what can be construed by the term “non-aggressive military use”. Such a definition in the past has been used, for example, to qualify the low altitude testing of cruise missiles in Canadian air space. It is non-aggressive, but ultimately the testing of those cruise missiles has forwarded the whole problem of the use of nuclear military weaponry.

Therefore, because the current legislation does not specifically preclude military actions under the mandate of the space agency, it leaves the door open for Canada to enter into the exploration of space as a military frontier.