

Criminal Code

after moving that motion, at the conclusion of his speech move that debate end and that the question be now put. He cannot have two motions before the house at the same time.

Mr. Valade: If I may speak to the point of order I would ask, if the house consents, to withdraw my motion and that the question be put.

Mr. Winch: If the hon. member withdraws his motion, his motion is no longer before the house.

Mr. Valade: I think the hon. member from Vancouver East is confusing things. I withdraw the motion that the matter be discussed and I ask that the question be put.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): I am not quite clear what the hon. member for St. Mary wants done. He is not able to withdraw the second motion he made because it has not been put. If he wants the previous question moved, he would not be able to move that motion because he already has a motion before the house.

Mr. Valade: If my motion is out of order, then the house does not consider the motion and certainly I have the right to ask that the question be put.

Mr. Knowles: Provided no one else wants to speak.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): The hon. member for Beauharnois-Salaberry.

Mr. Valade: If I may speak to the point of order, I think the Speaker should put the question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): The hon. member has moved the previous question. If I understand the hon. member correctly, and this is what he has done, I should point out to him that most authorities state that moving the previous question does not preclude debate on the original motion.

Mr. Valade: I think the ruling is not clear to me. If Your Honour has just made a ruling that my motion is out of order then it is not proceeded with. If it is not proceeded with, I then ask that the question be put. I think the Speaker should ask whether or not the question should be put.

Mr. Winch: I do not want to get confused after all these years in parliament. It is my understanding that the hon. member has moved a motion and spoken to it. His motion has to do with the Criminal Code and pro-

[Mr. Winch.]

vincial lotteries. Surely, sir, in a parliamentary democracy no one can move a motion and then, as soon as he has made his speech, move that the question be now put. Surely the hon. member has one of two alternatives. He may move his motion, allow it to be debated and if nobody wants to speak then it is automatically put. However, if he moves his motion and then, after having made his speech, moves that the question be now put, that is a denial of parliamentary democracy.

Mr. Valade: I am not going to get into a row with the hon. member for Vancouver East who is a specialist on these things. The motion that the question be now put leaves room for discussion as to whether or not the question should be put. On the assumption that the Chair has not accepted my motion, then the Speaker puts the question to the house, shall the question be now put? Some hon. members in this house can then talk about this. There is no dictatorship such as the N.D.P. are used to in this house.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): I hope I have not misunderstood the hon. member for St. Mary. I should like to begin at the beginning to see if we can get this thing straightened out. The hon. member for St. Mary moved the second reading of his bill and then, if I understand him correctly, he moved the previous question. I do not believe he is permitted to move the previous question since he already has a motion before the house.

However, even if he were permitted to move the previous question, the moving of the previous question does not preclude debate on the original motion. Even though some other member may want to move that motion, other members in the house still have the right to speak, not only on the motion that the question be now put, but also on the motion for second reading of this bill. I would, therefore, have to recognize the hon. member for Beauharnois-Salaberry.

[Translation]

Mr. Gerald Laniel (Beauharnois-Salaberry): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that, for once, the hon. member for St. Mary (Mr. Valade) decided to be brief, in order to enable other hon. members to voice their opinion on a matter which is of interest to quite a few.

On the other hand, because of his many points of order, the hon. member may have taken more time to expound his views, than he would have under ordinary circumstances,