

An hon. member: How can you make amendments?

Mr. Gauthier: How can I make amendments to that, short of proposing that the Pay Research Bureau be deleted from the bill? That is the only thing I can do. I cannot talk about the merits of the Pay Research Bureau although I think the government needs a Pay Research Bureau to give it up-to-date negotiating information in terms of compensation packages that are paid in the private sector. So it is going to be very difficult. How do I amend, for example, the fact that I believe that the Economic Council of Canada was doing a good job? I cannot amend that because all it says in here is that we are passing a bill to terminate certain corporations and other bodies.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the point to be made is that it restricts the opposition, it restricts parliamentarians' rights to really go into the substance, the principle at hand and to go into debating rationally and logically the principle before us.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will take this under advisement and come back to us with a ruling at some time and that you will rule in our favour.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to rule now but I am afraid that I cannot. I think there is a lot to consider here. I first wish to take the opportunity to thank the hon. leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, the hon. member for Kamloops, the hon. member for North Island—Powell River, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier and the hon. parliamentary secretary to the government House leader for their arguments.

I think there is a lot to consider here and I would like to take it under advisement. If you will permit me I shall do that and we will carry on with debate today on C-21.

Before I call C-21, I would like to say to hon. members that motions Nos. 4 and 6 are grouped for debate and a vote on No. 4 applies to No. 6.

Government Orders

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

**DEBT SERVICING AND ACCOUNT REDUCTION
ACT**

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Friday, March 27, consideration of Bill C-21, an act relating to the accounting of certain payments for the servicing and reduction of the debt of Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops) moved:

Motion No. 4

That Bill C-21 be amended by adding immediately after line 17 at page 3 the following new clause:

"7. To the extent that there is a credit balance in the Debt Servicing and Reduction Account, there may be charged to the Account in a fiscal year an amount in respect of any budgetary expenditure that, if it were not charged to the Account, would increase the deficit of the government in that year."

Motion No. 6

That Bill C-21 be amended in Clause 7 by striking out line 18 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:

"8. Except as provided by section 5, 6 or 7, no"—

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have a chance to participate in this debate. I suppose anybody listening would wonder what on earth this was all about with cutting out lines *x* and *y* and so on. Let me simplify this and put it into normal language.

This bill is what we in the opposition have been calling a smoke and mirrors bill. This bill gives the illusion that the government is concerned about how this GST is being utilized and the selling off of Crown corporations. It is trying to create the image that this is being used to pay down the deficit and reduce the debt in order to regain some popular support.

We all know around here and anywhere else in the country that you do not need a special bill or special legislation if you want to pay down the deficit and the debt. It is simply a matter of having the political will to do that and taking the necessary steps. However, I understand my friends on the government side. If I was taking all that heat on the GST while knowing how