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—
Chair

Mr. Dean Allison

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Tuesday, February 12, 2008

• (0905)

[English]

The Chair (Mr. Dean Allison (Niagara West—Glanbrook, CPC)): I would like to call the meeting of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities to order.

As we agreed at the last meeting, I believe we're going to continue with committee business and the motion put forward by Mr. Lessard. I'm hoping that we have more debate on this so we can come to a conclusion as quickly as possible.

I will start taking names on the list.

Mr. Savage.

Mr. Michael Savage (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour, Lib.): Thank you, Chair.

As members may recall, we finished the last meeting with some very interesting reading from Conservative members, Mr. Lake in particular, who was trying to talk this thing through. I understand he has a copy of George Bush's autobiography, which is the next thing to go into the official record.

In light of the serious work we have to do on the employability study, at the appropriate time I'd like to withdraw part of my motion—I guess we're discussing the subamendment—to take out some of the more deliberate language and see if we can't get this passed back to the House.

Should I read that now, or should we come back to that?

The Chair: Go ahead. Do you want to make your proposal? Then we'll see if we have unanimous consent to withdraw what you've put in.

Mr. Michael Savage: I will be withdrawing the words “and the inadequate response of the government to date”, which means that Mr. Lessard's motion would read:

That the committee recommend to the government, in view of the serious crisis in the forestry and manufacturing sectors, that it implement without delay an improved assistance plan for the forestry and manufacturing sectors, and that the adoption of this motion be reported to the House at the earliest opportunity.

The Chair: Do we have more discussion on it?

Mrs. Lynne Yelich (Blackstrap, CPC): I have one little thing. It should say it would be reported to the House at the earliest opportunity “after the employability study”.

The Chair: We had a subamendment as well.

The suggestion is that Mr. Savage is going to remove “and the inadequate response of the government to date”. We'll need unanimous consent for that.

But you had a subamendment, Mr. Lake. Did you want to withdraw your subamendment to Mr. Savage's motion? We'll have to work backwards.

Mr. Mike Lake (Edmonton—Mill Woods—Beaumont, CPC): Sure.

The Chair: If you want to withdraw, then once again we need unanimous consent for that.

Is that the direction you want to go in?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

• (0910)

The Chair: Let's go back to Mr. Savage then. Do we have unanimous consent for him to withdraw that part of the motion that he just read in?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Chair: As Mr. Savage just read, it stands as follows:

That the committee recommend to the government, in view of the serious crisis in the forestry and manufacturing sectors, that it implement without delay an improved assistance plan for the forestry and manufacturing sectors, and that the adoption of this motion be reported to the House at the earliest opportunity.

That's what we have so far.

Mrs. Lynne Yelich: Would it be acceptable to put “after the employability study”?

You are shaking your head no.

Mr. Mike Lake: That wasn't what he said.

Could you read that again?

The Chair: “That the committee recommend to the government, in view of the serious crisis in the forestry and manufacturing sectors...”. What was stricken from the record here is “and the inadequate response to the government to date”. So that's removed. Then go back to the motion as it read, “that it implement without delay an improved assistance plan for the forestry and manufacturing sectors...”. Everything after that is deleted, until we get to the last line, which says “and that the adoption of this motion be reported to the House at the earliest opportunity”.

That's where we are with the motion. Is there any other discussion?

Mrs. Lynne Yelich: It doesn't matter. I'm happy with the motion as it is, but it would be nice to prioritize the employability study in such motions. It has been ignored for far too long. We never seem to bring it into any of our future business. We always put the employability study off as if it isn't a priority, and it certainly is.

I just want to know if we can do it. If not, I don't want to go into long debate. I really don't.

The Chair: Go ahead, Mr. Savage.

Mr. Michael Savage: I appreciate that point of view. If delaying this until after the employability study would then speed it up going to the House, I would support that. But this can go to the House and we can continue the employability study. We're very likely going to be the government by the time this employability study actually gets through, so we want to get this done now.

Mrs. Lynne Yelich: Maybe I didn't miss anything.

The Chair: No, you didn't miss anything.

Okay, if there's no further debate I'll call the question on the amended motion as was read.

All those in favour of the amended motion?

Mr. Mike Lake: Sorry, Mr. Chair.

All those in favour of the amended motion, or all those in favour of the amendment?

The Chair: Thank you for the clarification. All those in favour of the amendment.

The amendment was the withdrawal....

Mr. Lessard.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yves Lessard (Chambly—Borduas, BQ): A point of order, Mr. Chair. Confusion reigns about Ms. Yelich's subamendment. Has she moved it or not? Are we voting on a subamendment or on Mr. Savage's amendment? If the vote is on Mr. Savage's amendment, there is no problem. But if it is on a subamendment, I have something to say, Mr. Chair.

[*English*]

The Chair: We are voting on Mr. Savage's amendment, as he proposed, minus the "inadequate response to the government to date".

Mrs. Lynne Yelich: If my subamendment brings any debate at all, I don't even want to bring it up.

The Chair: I'll call the question on the amendment, as amended by Mr. Savage.

(Amendment agreed to)

The Chair: I'll go back to the main motion, as amended. Is there any more discussion on that?

Mrs. Lynne Yelich: Nobody cares about the employability study.

The Chair: Mr. Lessard.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yves Lessard: I am asking for a recorded vote, please.

[*English*]

The Chair: Okay.

It looks as if there's a recorded vote. Thank you, sir.

Since there's no more discussion, we'll have a recorded vote on this.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yves Lessard: Mr. Chair, could you please reread the motion in its entirety and then hold a recorded vote?

[*English*]

The Chair: Okay.

We will reread the motion:

That the Committee recommend to the government, in view of the serious crisis in the forestry and manufacturing sectors, that it implement without delay an improved assistance plan for the forestry and manufacturing sectors...and that the adoption of this motion be reported to the House at the earliest opportunity.

(Motion agreed to: yeas 7; nays 2) [See *Minutes of Proceedings*]

● (0915)

The Chair: We'll now take one second to go back in camera for the employability study. If you can give us a second to get that changed over, then we'll restart.

Mr. Lessard.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yves Lessard: Mr. Chair, could you tell the committee when you propose to table this report in the House?

[*English*]

The Chair: The clerk says he could have it ready for tomorrow, so I'd be happy to present it in the House tomorrow.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yves Lessard: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[*English*]

The Chair: Okay.

We'll take a break to get back in camera.

[*Proceedings continue in camera*]

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