Transportation

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): While we try to unravel what the minister said, may I ask if he has any information about the question to which I referred concerning an order? What happens to an order between the time it has been made and the time the appeal or review is under way? I ask this because during the committee hearings, as I recall, someone complained of hardship. I should like to know what the law is now and if there has been any change in this regard.

Mr. Pickersgill: There is nothing in the law now that sets aside the effect of an order while a review is being undertaken. The board has the power, if a review is required and some injury would be done by a continuation of the order, to issue a stop order. The commission would have this power too. It is felt, however, that if this were a requirement there might be vexatious demands for reviews merely to gum up the works. Experience shows that the present provision does allow the situation to be dealt with adequately. I apologize to the hon, gentleman because I had a notation on this matter but I overlooked it.

Clause agreed to.

The Chairman: Clause 19?

Mr. Pickersgill: I think we could go on with clause 18. The hon, member for Edmonton-Strathcona asked that it be allowed to stand because clause 17 had been allowed to stand.

On clause 18—Appeal.

Mr. Howe (Wellington-Huron): There is a reference in this clause to a licence to operate a motor vehicle. Would it be necessary for anyone applying for one of these licences to have a provincial licence?

Mr. Pickersgill: I believe you cannot operate a motor vehicle in any province in Canada without having a licence on it. There is nothing this parliament can do to change that requirement and we are not trying to change it. The reference is not to a licence to drive the vehicle but to a licence to carry on business between two provinces or between a province and a foreign country. The issuance of licences to operate vehicles is entirely a matter within provincial jurisdiction. We are not in any way purporting to deal with that. We would be dealing with a licence to permit this motor vehicle undertaking to cross provincial boundaries.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

person applying for a federal licence must have a provincial licence before he applies?

Mr. Pickersgill: His vehicle must be licensed or the provincial police will stop him from going along the roads.

Mr. Howe (Wellington-Huron): We know that when commercial vehicles go from one province to another they have to have a licence in each province. Will this rule still apply?

Mr. Pickersgill: I imagine there is nothing we can do about that. This would be a matter entirely within provincial jurisdiction. If the provinces require it, of course it would be up to them.

Mr. Howe (Wellington-Huron): If a commercial vehicle were travelling from Halifax to Vancouver, would it have to have nine provincial licences and a federal licence?

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. gentleman will appreciate that is none of our business in this house. If two provinces agree they will respect each other's licence plates, as they do for pleasure cars, that is up to them. I have only an Ontario licence on my car but if I had the time I would be able to drive it in any province. I believe the provinces require some commercial vehicles to be licensed in each province, but that is entirely a provincial matter and is not dealt with in this bill.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 19—Regulations.

• (3:40 p.m.)

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Can I get verification of my thinking from the minister? I mention this point because the minister referred to the Governor in Council with regard to clauses 17 and 18. Do I now understand that under clause 19 and clause 35, which also has to do with regulations, the commission can set its own regulations and that it is not necessary to get the approval of the Governor in Council? Am I also correct that should the Governor in Council desire to intervene and become involved as the minister suggests, the commission probably would not take this action even if it wanted to?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the commission does have the power to make its own rules. If I am wrong in this I will get legal advice and make an abject apology to the hon. member, but I think my interpreta-Mr. Howe (Wellington-Huron): Would it not tion is correct, that if these rules seem to be be better to spell that out in the bill, that a unjust, vexatious or anything like that the