

with respect to the security to be given to and in the name of His Majesty to secure the due performance of contracts.

That provision having been made applicable to all contracts, it is sought to change the Public Works Act in respect to two principles which it incorporates, and which have existed for many years. Section 36, which enacted that contracts for work costing less than \$5,000 need not be let by tender, and that tenders on works for which tenders are invited shall be submitted to and approved by the Governor in Council, is being repealed, and the following was proposed in substitution therefor:

36. Where a work is to be executed under the direction of a department of the government, the minister having charge of that department shall invite tenders by public advertisement for the execution of the work except in cases where

(a) the work is one of pressing emergency in which the delay would be injurious to the public interest,

(b) the work can be more expeditiously and economically executed by the employees of the department concerned, or—

And this is the clause which proved contentious:

(c) the minister is satisfied that the nature of the work renders a call for tenders by public advertisement impracticable and that the public interest can best be served by entering into a contract for the execution thereof without inviting such tenders.

Honourable senators will also note that under the terms of the Financial Administration Act the restrictions upon the letting of contracts are not in respect of prescribed amounts, but no contracts in excess of an amount which the Governor in Council may prescribe shall be entered into except as determined and approved by the Governor in Council or the Treasury Board. There was a good deal of discussion in the other place, and subsequently the bill was stood over while other legislation was proceeded with. The bill was again considered there today. There was no objection to the cases of exception outlined in clauses (a) and (b), but for clause (c), which specifies no amount, the following has been substituted:

(c) where the estimated cost of the work is less than fifteen thousand dollars and it appears to the minister, in view of the nature of the work, that it is not advisable to invite tenders.

This amendment merely takes into account the increasing costs of public works. If my memory serves me rightly, the limitation of \$5,000 was placed in the Act some seventy years ago. This amendment apparently met with the approval of all parties in the other house, and was duly passed there, and I now submit the amended bill for the favourable consideration of this house.

Hon. Mr. Marcotte: I take it for granted that the bill which has been handed to me is not in its final form, because it does not contain the amendment just referred to.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Marcotte: And from what the leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson) has said, I take it that the sum of \$15,000 is the limit under the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: That is right.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: With leave of the Senate, I move that the bill be read the third time now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, as far as I am aware there is no further legislation to be dealt with by this house. At the moment the members of the other house are putting the finishing touches to the resolution with respect to the accession of Greece and Turkey to the North Atlantic Alliance. The Senate, of course, in its usual diligent manner has already given approval to this resolution. Honourable senators will recall the message read earlier by His Honour the Speaker, informing us that the Deputy Governor would come to this chamber at 7 o'clock this evening for the purpose of proroguing the present session of parliament. "Hope springs eternal"—and perhaps we may hope that the other house, influenced by the swift approach of Saturday night, will conclude its discussions sooner than contemplated, and that it may be possible for the Deputy Governor to come here before 7 o'clock. Therefore, I would ask honourable senators to remain in the precincts of the chamber, so as to be available whenever our presence may be required. I now move that the house adjourn during pleasure, to reassemble at the call of the bell.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate adjourned during pleasure.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

THE ROYAL ASSENT—SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

The Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, the Deputy of the Governor General, having