

Public Printing and Stationery Act

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Subsection agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Subsection 2 of the new section 38 deals with accounting. Is it the pleasure of hon. members to agree to this subsection?

Mr. Knowles: In agreeing, may I point out that as to the three subsections which you are now referring to, Mr. Chairman, there is no change from those subsections as they stand in the act at the present time.

The Deputy Chairman: Then is subsection 2 agreed to?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Subsections 2 and 3 agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: We now come to subsection 4. This is the subsection which the hon. member for Greenwood has asked to be allowed to stand. Perhaps I should refer the hon. member to citation 691 of Beauchesne's third edition. Unless this subsection is to be allowed to stand by unanimous consent, the hon. member will have to move that consideration of the subsection be postponed. If he makes that motion, and as the subsection is before the committee, if there is no agreement on it I will have to put it to a vote.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I understand that, Mr. Chairman. I just want to reiterate what I have already said. I have asked for information, and it seemed to me a reasonable request. If we may not have that information, then we cannot get it; that is all. I will move that consideration of the subsection be deferred until this information which I have asked for—and I think it was a reasonable request—is available.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Before we vote on this may I say that as I understand the discussion up to now, there is a sum due by the departments to the king's printer amounting to some \$3 million odd as of November 22. The amount varies every day. The detail the hon. member wants is the amount due by the departments to the king's printer showing the change that occurs daily. The accounts are paid regularly. It would be quite difficult and would take a long time to prepare all these accounts, because every time we make a requisition to the king's printer for work to be done it is verified by the comptroller of the treasury, who looks into the account to see if we have that amount of money. Then the amount is encumbered, and cannot be spent otherwise than to pay for the requisition made. That amount is set aside by the comptroller of the treasury, and when we receive delivery of the goods, or the work is performed, an invoice comes in and the comp-

like that. I do not like to be the cause of delay; it pains me greatly, but I put it to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the committee that we still have not been told the whole story. The mere fact that at one time the king's printer obtained \$2 million and that costs have gone up does not impress me greatly. Maybe they were following the same easy practice years ago. Maybe they were not making the ministers pay. In those days probably they did not have as good a Minister of Public Works as we have now. But there is no reason in the world why we should not press this matter. This raises an interesting question as to the relations between departments. I am not disposed to let this matter go. I suggest again that we get a clear statement with regard to this matter and that in the meantime this section stand.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that the information required by the hon. member can be supplied, but it is going to take some considerable time to do it. I should again like to point out that the matter is not so simple as that of monthly statements and monthly payments. For example, we are now printing the revised statutes of Canada. I am advised that we have been at that job for one and a half years. For that work we have as yet received no payment at all, and we presumably shall receive no payment until the job is completed and delivered. There is one case in which it is not a question of payment monthly at all. But we have to carry it month after month. As I have already said, we have carried it for one and a half years already.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Why?

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. members will have noticed that all the discussion is revolving around subsection 4 of the new section 38, which is section 2 of the bill. The actual clause under consideration is section 1, which has to do with requisitions. I know some latitude is always given to hon. members on the first section. Perhaps hon. members would consent to carrying section 1, which has to do with requisitions.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—*How expenses shall be met.*

The Deputy Chairman: This section creates a new section 38. Perhaps we could take this new section by paragraphs. Is that procedure agreeable to the committee?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Subsection 1 of the new section 38 deals with the manner in which expenses are to be met. Are hon. members ready to adopt this subsection?