

opportunity or leave it. From your experience and from the experience of the committee, you know exactly what will happen. The sponsor of a bill will present his views, aside entirely from the legal aspects, and will have a complete holiday. Those views go out. They may even be misinterpreted to be the views of other members of parliament. I hold a contrary view entirely and I think there are many others here who are opposed to this bill. If we open the question up to the point where other people will want to come here to make representations, they ought to do it at the same time or as nearly the same time as is possible. This would mean that we would not do any other business at all this year. I do not think the bill is urgent at all. I think we should face up to it and tell him to take the bill back to the floor of the House. He can fight it there and everybody can stand up and be counted if necessary.

We cannot be diverted from the task at hand. We have a very large order before us. As Mr. Diefenbaker has said, some people already feel we are not making much headway. To divert ourselves at this late stage from all the important business we have is unwise, and you cannot do it any other way. I think the bill ought to go right back from where it came. We do not need to report it this year. I do not think we have time or that it is of such moment of importance at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: What are the views of the other members of the committee?

Mr. HANSELL: Did Mr. LaCroix appear to be disappointed at all that there would, perhaps, not be time this year?

The CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. LaCroix would prefer not to begin on this matter at all unless he is permitted to argue the bill completely. If that is done it would appear to me that the opposing interests should have an opportunity to appear immediately afterwards rather than at some possible future date.

Mr. CROLL: Mr. Hansell's question is rather an important one. Many members had resolutions on the order paper which were never reached. There was a resolution on the order paper dealing with this specific matter. Then, along came the bill. We might all have had private bills, but we took the other procedure. He cannot be any more disappointed than the rest of us. The resolution on the order paper probably preceded his bill by some time, so his disappointment cannot be too keen. These people he is trying to get rid of will still be here next year.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: I agree with Mr. Croll in his opposition to the principles enunciated by the wording of this bill. If it comes to the committee, as I see it now, I intend to oppose it. If I understand correctly, this bill was sent to this committee. We have an instruction or you, as Chairman of this committee, have an instruction from the House of Commons to consider this bill. Am I right in that? I am talking purely about procedure. If it comes before us, do we have to report for or against it?

Mr. CROLL: We need not report on it at all.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: I am asking about that.

The CHAIRMAN: The subject was referred to this committee and so was the subject matter of the Bill of Rights.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: You think we have a right to pass it by?

The CHAIRMAN: I think we have the right to say we have not had an opportunity of considering it.

Mr. HANSELL: I do not think, from what Mr. LaCroix has said, he will be tremendously disappointed. He has said he will present it next year. I think we could reasonably, perhaps, be of service to Mr. LaCroix in asking him to forgo the presentation of the bill at this time as it would give him a better opportunity to consider the matter next year.