

Mr. JACKMAN: But this executive committee, as I understand it, has powers which did not exist before. The executive committee itself did not exist before, only the council. Now we have an executive committee which has all the powers in law, as well as in fact, of the council. I believe that it would be better for the carrying on of the work if this executive committee, which legally has all the power, were not composed of at least fifty per cent of executives in receipt of a salary. The general council, now fifteen in number, can be overlooked between meetings because of the power that will reside in the executive committee itself. May I ask the minister, when he replies, to say whether a quorum has been fixed for the executive committee, and is there a quorum for the council itself?

Mr. HOWE: The amendment provides that there shall be a minimum of three, but there would be nothing to prevent council from appointing four members to the executive committee.

Mr. JACKMAN: I pointed that out.

Mr. HOWE: The executive committee has power only between meetings of the full council. It can exercise power for three months, but its actions can be overruled by the full council whenever it meets. The authority of the executive committee can be limited by the full council if the full council loses confidence in the executive committee. There is nothing in the measure to prevent the appointment of four members from the council at large if council decides that is desirable.

Mr. GREEN: Why not make it four, then? Pretty wide power is given to the executive committee under section 5 of this bill, which provides:

The executive committee of the council may exercise the powers of the council and shall submit at each meeting of the council minutes of its proceedings since the last preceding meeting of the council.

There is no provision for a review by the full council. I suggest that there is some merit in the point raised by the hon. member for Rosedale, and I would suggest that the word "three" be changed to "four" in section 3 of the bill.

Mr. HOWE: The council itself recommended that there be a minimum of three. I would dislike to overrule the council without consultation. This bill was not invented in the office of the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply; it was invented in the research council, and was sent to myself as chairman of the cabinet committee with the recom-

mendation of the full council. On a matter which is wholly for the council I would dislike to overrule the opinion of the council. I might say, however, that the executive committee is appointed by the council and it exercises its brief authority only between meetings of the council. It can be dismissed and reappointed by the full council at will. So that I think there is no great authority carried there.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—President of the council.

Mr. JACKMAN: I asked the minister with regard to a quorum, and he pointed out, what I pointed out myself, that there must be at least three other members selected by the council, but that is merely the nominal role of the executive committee. What I am asking him is, is there a provision as to the quorum of the executive committee, and also a provision as to the quorum of the council itself?

Mr. HOWE: The original Research Council Act provides in article 10 thereof that the council may exercise the following powers, namely, (a) to make by-laws for the conduct of its business. The matter of a quorum is a matter for the by-laws of the council, and the council has the authority to make its own by-laws.

Mr. JACKMAN: It certainly seems strange that the minister should come to parliament asking for legislation setting up a certain organization, and saying that this organization has the right to make its own by-laws and determine exactly how it should be run, as if parliament did not have something to say as to how these institutions and committees should be run. I think what is suggested is preposterous, and I suggest that we as a committee should determine how we want this council run, within the field of our own discretion and with what background we have of experience in committees, et cetera. If we feel that a certain procedure should be followed it is up to us to incorporate that in the bill, and not say to a committee, "Here is carte blanche; make your own rules; come when you like; delegate powers to a few paid executives, and carry on; after a while report to us; then after fifteen months or two years report to parliament, and by that time it will all be forgotten about." Might I emphasize, while I am on that point, the need for this council to report to parliament in a much shorter time than is allowed under the provisions of the bill as it now stands. The minister has said how the national research council erred in declaring that the Pidgeon