

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I might say that that was inadvertently inserted, and I would have asked the House to have placed that in brackets or to have stricken it out.

The SPEAKER—So that the Commons themselves may fix the rate.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUÉ—That is not the point of order raised.

The SPEAKER—Yes, the point of order raised is consequent on the decision, as given on the motion. This is what I find to be added:

After the word 'ratification'—And shall not take effect until so revised or ratified.

Taking into consideration that the main motion made by the leader of the House is not a money clause, inasmuch as the money part of it is supposed to be in brackets, I cannot find that this amendment affects the amendment itself. If the main motion is not a money clause, this amendment applies to the amendment certain restrictions; and in the House of Commons, by rule 78 we have this:

All aids and supplies granted to His Majesty by the Parliament of Canada are the sole gift of the House, and all Bills for granting, etc. . . . and it is the undoubted right of the House to direct, limit and point in all such Bills, the purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants, which are not alterable by the Senate.

There is no doubt that that clause applies specially to grants; but we see that in a money Bill where grants are given, this House has no right at all to bring in any limitation whatsoever; it is the sole gift of the House of Commons, and it is the privilege of the House of Commons to refuse any amendment which would encroach upon their own powers. But this amendment applies to a motion which does not fix any monetary rate at all, but imposes a condition that the Parliament will, at the last, decide upon the question. Under those conditions I have grave doubts as to whether this point of order is well taken.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I shall say to the House that if my hon. friend's motion is carried, the Government will not accept it and will have to withdraw the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Is my hon. friend authorized to declare that if there is no agreement by this Chamber over this very clause, that besides this clause going by the board, the whole Bill, which seems to be an omnibus Bill, will be withdrawn.

Hon. Mr. SPEAKER.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—That is a ministerial threat.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It is proposed to take out of the hands of the Government charged with the administration of the postal laws until the next session of Parliament, the fixing of the postal rates, and that of course the Government cannot accept.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—My hon. friend should not forget that, up to this moment, Parliament has retained within its power the right of fixing rates. I was instrumental in helping to frame the amendment which the House of Commons has not concurred in, because the Postmaster General thought of yielding to a certain extent to the press representatives and allowing them a greater safeguard by bringing them before the Treasury Board. I suggested that the fixing of the rates by the Postmaster General be subject to ratification by Parliament, but I felt, before the representation was made in committee by the Postmaster General, that considerable loss was being suffered by the country in carrying the present newspapers, and other periodicals at an unfair rate, and that that should be cured by prompt action. It seemed to me that if a rate were fixed in the Bill when it was returned to the Commons, providing for the limitation of zones, and if these rates were submitted to Parliament at the following session, there would be sufficient safeguards in favour of the Newspaper Association. I made that suggestion with the idea that the maximum rate would be no more than four times the actual rate; that is one cent per pound weight. I found then a certain desire expressed by the Government and the Postmaster General to go beyond one cent. I find that the Postmaster General still clings to a one cent and a half maximum, and perhaps he is right for certain special cases. But there is one thing which I have learned since we have discussed the matter in the committee of this House; it is that the fixing provisionally of a rate will unhinge and disorganize to a certain extent the whole business of the newspaper concerns, because the fixing of a rate naturally affects the fixing of their own rates to the public. If for three or four months the rate is uncertain and is made to weigh heavily upon them, they might be injured; they will not know if they must revise their