

Royal Assent

This commission is at the very heart of the bill and the success of the bill depends on it, because the interpretation and the application of this legislation will be no better and no worse than the people we appoint to the commission. Therefore, this is a very important amendment. It reads:

● (4:50 p.m.)

That Bill C-196, an act respecting grain, be amended by striking out the word "pleasure" in line 39, page 9 thereof, and substituting therefor the words "good behavior for ten years."

As I said, Mr. Speaker, the present proposed clause suggests that these men be appointed at pleasure. I wish to make the following points to support my amendment. There is always considerable difficulty in finding qualified personnel unless a reasonable tenure of office is assured. Appointment at pleasure is too indefinite. Normally it takes several years of experience in a new post, at first hand in a job like this, before a man can be expected to contribute his maximum effort. Under the present clause nominees may just be reaching the peak of their efficiency and may then be replaced, as the Prime Minister did recently in his shuffling of Parliamentary Secretaries.

By accepting my amendment this government and any succeeding government would be relieved of any temptation to practice political patronage. Last but not least, a member of the commission should have a longer tenure of office guaranteed than at pleasure, for another important reason.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Lieutenant Colonel A. Fortier, Assistant Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, it is the desire of the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General that this honourable House attend him immediately in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

In the Senate chamber, the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

An Act to provide for the establishment of a Standards Council of Canada.

An act to amend the Canada Corporations Act and other statutory provisions related to the subject matter of certain of those amendments.

[Mr. Southam.]

An act respecting Hudson's Bay Company.

An act to exempt certain shipping conference practices from the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act.

To these bills the royal assent was pronounced by the Clerk of the Senate in the following words:

In Her Majesty's name, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General doth assent to these bills.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

After which the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the second session of the twenty-eighth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The second session of the twenty-eighth Parliament was opened on October 23, 1969. During this period, you have approved legislation of far-reaching importance to the well-being of Canada and all Canadians, and you have considered a number of significant policy proposals for the future.

Canadians were honoured by the visit of Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Anne, all of whom assisted in the celebrations of the Centenary of the Province of Manitoba and of the Northwest Territories. Their visit to our northern and arctic regions helped to remind the people of Canada of this vast frontier's great potential for growth and development.

Recognizing the promise of the North, you have enacted legislation to promote its development. You have enacted amendments to the Yukon Act, the Northwest Territories Act, and the Territorial Lands Act to provide the residents of those territories with greater responsibility in the administration of their respective governments. You have enacted amendments to the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act, and have passed the Northern Inland Waters Act, and the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act in order to assure that the development of the North's abundant resources will not be accompanied by destruction of its undeveloped environment.

Your concern for the quality of our environment in all regions of Canada also moved you to enact the Canada Water Act which will provide the framework for the preservation and restoration of this most essential of our resources.

You have adopted a number of measures to assist the development as well as the conservation of our natural resources. You have enacted the Saltfish Act and amendments to the Fisheries Act and the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act. You have amended the Territorial Seas and Fishing Zones Act creating, in so doing, new, exclusive fishing zones and protecting this resource from the danger of total depletion.

In order to provide for the more effective administration of our energy resources, you have enacted amendments to the National Energy Board