

the Treasury Board will probably come to parliament and hide behind the alleged privilege of the minutes of the Treasury Board. If he does, then the house will be denied access to information in some cases which is urgently desired.

Under the structure that is proposed there is no doubt that the Treasury Board will have to act in many of these matters, but I do hope there will be no hiding by way of privilege in the way which I mentioned.

[Translation]

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Chairman, I have nothing to add to the remarks made by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) on subclause (7) of clause 3 and on security.

However, Mr. Chairman, I should like to call the minister's attention—

[English]

to the following subject. There is a problem here under internal administration, grievances that come under the jurisdiction of the internal administration. Some methods of dealing with them have already been established but I should like to get an explanation from the minister. I am referring to internal administration under subclause 1.

Mr. Benson: I am not sure what my hon. friend is referring to when he speaks of internal administration. If he is referring to internal administration in the House of Commons let me tell him that this does not come under this legislation. It comes under the House of Commons Act. Earlier this afternoon I gave certain assurances with regard to it. The employees of the House of Commons are not employees of the government as such but employees of this house. The manner in which we deal with them must be decided by all parties of the house.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): May we have an assurance from the minister that we will have some explanations from him with regard to this matter in the near future?

Mr. Benson: This afternoon I gave some assurances which will be recorded in *Hansard*.

Mr. Lewis: Can we have some co-operation from those who manipulate the loud speaker system, because we cannot hear the minister too well and we get a good many echoes over the earphones. Words can be interpreted in many ways when there are no echoes, but the echoes can double or triple the meanings.

Financial Administration Act

Mr. Benson: That is no fault of mine.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

On clause 3—*Powers and Functions of Treasury Board in Relation to Personnel Management.*

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Chairman, I wish to say a few words about subsection 7 of section 7 in clause 3 of the bill. I am particularly concerned about this subsection which reads as follows:

Nothing in this or any other act shall be construed to limit or affect the right or power of the governor in council, in the interest of the safety or security of Canada or any state allied or associated with Canada, to suspend any person employed in the public service or, after an inquiry conducted in accordance with regulations of the governor in council by a person appointed by the governor in council at which the person concerned has been given an opportunity of being heard, to dismiss any such person.

Subsection 7 is a very slight improvement over section 50.

Mr. Benson: It is a considerable improvement.

Mr. Douglas: We will see how much of an improvement it is. I remember that when we were arguing over the Victor Spencer case I think it was the Prime Minister who said that back in the 1950's section 50 had been passed without any strenuous objections. I want to make it very clear that I have strenuous objections to it now. The words "or, after an inquiry conducted in accordance" simply provide for an inquiry. In the case of Victor Spencer it was an inquiry concerning a man who had been dismissed by the governor in council, was to be tried under regulations made by the governor in council by a person appointed by the governor in council. If there is anything more unilateral than that, I do not know what it is. The governor in council is going to be the judge, jury and executioner.

Mr. Benson: Will the hon. member permit me to clarify this? Under subsection 7 he is not dismissed by the governor in council, but suspended until an inquiry takes place at which he can put forth his case.

Mr. Douglas: Certainly the last part of the phrase which reads "to dismiss any such person" indicates that somebody has to dismiss him. Surely this would be under the jurisdiction of the cabinet after an inquiry had been conducted under the regulations made by the cabinet by a person appointed by the cabinet.