

Private Bills

the St. Lawrence river or from the shore of an island to the bank of the St. Lawrence, there is certainly—

Mr. Boulanger: There is certainly a difference.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, whether we start from the shore of an island to get to the shore of the St. Lawrence, there are still two shores, and it takes a bridge to reach both. I regret the hon. member for Mercier does not understand that an island also has shores.

Mr. Boulanger: I was merely asking you to be more explicit.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Mercier for his attention towards me.

Mr. Speaker, clause 2 reads as follows:

The said bridge and causeway shall be constructed and located under, and be subject to, such regulations for the security of navigation of the said river as the governor in council prescribes.

To such end Developpement Central Ville de l'Isle Inc.—

Mr. Speaker, we do not know the names of the directors or those of the shareholders of that company. We cannot find them anywhere.

I read on:

To such end Developpement Central Ville de l'Isle Inc. shall submit to the governor in council, for examination and approval, a design and drawing of the bridge and causeway and a map of the location, giving the soundings accurately, showing the bed of the stream and the location of other bridges, and shall furnish such other information as is required for a full and satisfactory understanding of the subject, and until the said plans and location are approved by the governor in council the said bridge and causeway shall not be built or commenced; and, if any change is made in the plans of the said bridge and causeway during their construction, such change shall be subject to the approval of the governor in council and shall not be made or commenced until it is so approved.

Mr. Speaker, you will admit that I stick to the spirit of the bill, since I am quoting the different sections.

Mr. Rouleau: This is a filibuster.

Mr. Caouette: And now section 3 reads as follows:

The construction of the said bridge and causeway shall be commenced within three years after the plans therefor have been approved by the governor in council—

We note that this project could be completed in three or four years and I am wondering whether the construction of houses has not been undertaken on these islands called Ile Ste Therese and Ile-aux-Asperges. And I now read on:

—and shall be completed within three years after such commencement; otherwise the powers granted

by this act shall cease and be null and void as respects so much of the undertaking as then remains uncompleted.

Mr. Speaker, there is a point which seems to me quite ambiguous and equivocal. It is this:

Otherwise, the powers granted by this act shall cease and be null and void as respects so much of the undertaking as then remain uncompleted.

To build, go across, or do what precisely?

Mr. Beaulé: A flying bridge.

Mr. Caouette: To build a "flying bridge", as suggested by my hon. friend for Quebec East (Mr. Beaulé). And further on, in section 3:

Provided, however, that if such approval is not obtained within three years after the passing of this act, the powers granted for the construction of the said bridge shall cease and be null and void.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member for Dollard, who is a man of ability and good will, should have tried to submit a more serious bill than the one brought forward. In fact, I sat in this house from 1946 to 1948 and never was such a bill introduced, asking to authorize a private corporation or an individual to build a bridge across the St. Lawrence river, or from one bank to an island located in the middle of the river, in order to facilitate the construction or creation, if you prefer, of projects which could be residential or industrial and probably commercial. They do not know exactly where they are going, but nevertheless they want a bridge to go there.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we do not intend to let that bill go through if we do not get more information from the hon. member for Dollard, and in order to allow him to supply the information, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lapointe:

That Bill No. S-41 be not now read the second time, but that it be given a six month's hoist.

Mr. Guy Rouleau (Dollard): Mr. Speaker, I sincerely believe that the points raised by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) in support of his amendment are not valid. I think we should proceed immediately with the second reading of this bill and, if need be, put the question to a vote. I suggest the bill needs no explanation.

Besides, when the hon. member for Villeneuve says he has never seen such a bill adopted, I think he overlooked a few, because in 1961 the house passed—

Mr. Caouette: I was not here then.

Mr. Rouleau: In any case, he ought to know about it.

Mr. Caouette: It was passed because I was not here.