

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, September 28, 1949

The house met at three o'clock.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1949-50

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting further supplementary estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1950, was presented by Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance), read by Mr. Speaker to the house, and referred to the committee of supply.

CRIMINAL CODE

PORTRAYAL OF CRIMES BY PICTURES IN
MAGAZINES, ETC., TENDING
TO INDUCE VIOLENCE

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 10, to amend the Criminal Code (portrayal of crimes).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Fulton: This bill is in exactly the same form as one introduced during the last session—which was then known as Bill No. 9—of the previous parliament. It is designed to amend the Criminal Code to cover those magazines and periodicals commonly known as crime comics, the publication of which is now legal but which it is widely felt tend to the lowering of morals and to the inducing of the commission of crimes by juveniles.

As I have said, the bill is in exactly the same form as that which was introduced last year, which there was not sufficient time to discuss. The form of the bill is suggested by a draft actually read to the house by a former minister of justice, now Mr. Justice Ilsley. The purpose is to deal with these publications not by imposing a direct censorship or by blanket prohibition, but rather by providing in general terms that the publication and distribution as defined in the act shall be illegal, thus leaving it for the court or jury, in accordance with the normal principles prevailing at a criminal trial, to determine whether or not the publication in question falls within the definition.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED

QUESTIONS AS TO ROUTING OF PROPOSED PIPE LINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Moose Jaw): Has the attention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce been drawn to the reported offer made

yesterday to civic officials in Fort William by Imperial Oil Limited to build its pipe line through Canadian territory to Port Arthur if government assistance is forthcoming? Will the government investigate the offer, with a view to reconsidering its former decision?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): My hon. friend suggests that the government has made a decision. So far as I know, the government has made no decision. A private project has been placed before it, and the appropriate branches of government acted upon that project as required by law. The government has received no proposal in the matter, and I doubt whether a proposal will be made to the government concerning a private project of this kind.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY DISTRIBUTION OFFICE—
AIR CONDITIONING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I ask the Minister of Public Works if he will look into the matter of the air conditioning in the joint parliamentary distribution office down below?

Hon. Alphonse Fournier (Minister of Public Works): I shall call the attention of my officials to the request of my hon. friend, and let him know what can be done.

THE BUDGET

INQUIRY AS TO PROBABLE DATE OF PRESENTATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Now that the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne would appear to be drawing to a close, and the Minister of Finance has indicated that it is intended to proceed with the supplementary estimates, can the minister give any indication as to when it is intended to introduce the budget?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): I cannot give any definite indication, but I should hope it would be not later than the middle of October. I would not want to be held too closely to that date, but that is my hope and expectation.