

positions outside of the translation bureau or the translation service. But, sir, I have consulted with the law officers and with the civil service commission, and I am confident that if this measure is adopted there is nothing in the measure or in its administration which will prevent any translator in the public service, however humble may be his position, from obtaining higher offices in the administrative services of government if he can show to the civil service commission that he is properly and fully qualified therefor.

Mr. BOUCHARD: Would the minister allow a question? In making this statement has the minister considered the chief translators? Are they to remain as chief translators, or are they not?

Mr. CAHAN: I cannot say, because I will not have their appointment, but there will be positions in this service that will require the services of chief translators to the full number of, if not a greater number than, those at present engaged on the House of Commons staff. I agree with what was said by the Solicitor General and others, that special attention should be given to the work of the Hansard translators, whose conditions of employment during the session differ from the conditions under which other civil servants are employed, and that such translators should receive special consideration in effecting the proposed reorganization of this bureau for translations.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I should like to add that there was no partisan or political motive in the preparation and submission of this bill. The superintendent of the bureau and the heads of its branches, to whom my hon. friend refers as chief translators, preferably should be men whose maternal language is French. In any event, in the organization of this bureau the minister and the civil service commission may be reasonably expected to exercise ordinary intelligence and if they do so those whose maternal language is French certainly will have the preferred position. I am confident that the select committee, to which I shall move that this bill be referred, will give its provisions careful and unprejudiced consideration, ever keeping in view the paramount purpose of perfecting means for the radical improvement of this branch of the public service.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of personal privilege. In the course of his remarks the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) said that under standing order 65 I was disqualified from sitting on that committee.

Mr. CAHAN: That was not what I said.

Mr. CHEVRIER: If the hon. gentleman will withdraw that statement I shall not press my point, but I want the house to understand that I shall not sit on any committee if there is any doubt in the minds of hon. members of this house as to my right to do so. In the first place I submit that rule 65 does not declare anything; it simply says:

It shall always be understood that no member who declares or decides against the principle of a bill, resolution, or matter to be committed, can be nominated of such committee.

When I was nominated to the civil service committee, sir, I had not declared or decided against the principle of this bill, nor had the bill at that moment been referred. As a matter of fact it has not yet been referred to any committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman is premature in raising the point of order now. The question of his eligibility to sit on the committee, if there is any question, will arise in due course.

Mr. CHEVRIER: But this is a point which affects my personal dignity, and as a member of this house I will not sit on any committee until this point is settled. I will not sit on this committee unless the matter is settled by the house here and now.

Mr. CAHAN: Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that the senior member for Ottawa (Mr. Chevrier) cannot allow me to indulge in a bit of humour in discussing this bill. At the time I made the remark I had more in view, the enlightenment which the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Cardin) desired to receive during the course of his speech. I am not raising the question of whether or not the hon. gentleman is qualified to sit on the committee; there is no member of the house whom I would rather see sitting on that committee than the senior member for Ottawa.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Speaker, I accept those words in the spirit in which they are uttered.

Motion agreed to on division, bill read the second time and referred to the special committee on the Civil Service Act.

#### BANK OF CANADA

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of bill No. 19, to incorporate the Bank of Canada.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, owing to the exceptional importance of the