

He said: Honourable senators: The bill contains four sections, and at our morning sitting opposition was expressed to only the first one, which would repeal the existing provision that limits the annual value of the real estate held in Canada by or in trust for the society to \$100,000. I understand that unanimous consent is required in order to pass my motion. If this is given and the bill is read a second time and referred to committee, I shall move in committee that section 1 of the bill be stricken out. Elimination of this section would mean that the society, if it wishes a widening of the limitation on the annual value of its real estate holdings, will be required to have a bill presented to parliament at another session, and—as was pointed out this morning by the honourable gentleman from Thunder Bay (Hon. Mr. Paterson)—if another bill does come before us it can be considered in committee in the usual way.

Hon. Mr. Gouin: Honourable senators, I have the honour to second the motion for suspension of the rules.

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, I do not object to the request for unanimous consent to the waiving of rules governing private bills, but I think I should in all fairness point out that included among these rules would be No. 107, which provides:

All applications to parliament for private bill of any nature whatsoever shall be advertised by notice published in the *Canada Gazette*.

The bill was not so advertised, and if we pass the motion we waive that requirement. Because of the nature of the bill and the explanation by the sponsor (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) that he will move for the elimination of section 1, I am not objecting to the suspension of the rules, but I am bound to say that I hope this will not be regarded as a precedent. I think that every private bill presented to parliament should conform to the rules regarding publication, rules which have been carefully prepared and have a definite purpose.

Hon. Mr. Marcotte: May I ask the honourable senator from Cariboo (Hon. Mr. Turgeon), who sponsored this bill, whether any harm would be done to the Red Cross Society if consideration were postponed until the next session of Parliament? This morning the honourable gentleman said that when we reconvene in a couple of months he would undertake to bring up the subject, so that it could be referred to a committee of the house. Nobody has contributed more service to this country than the Red Cross Society, and I would be the last man to oppose any measure of assistance to it. But the honourable leader of the government has just expressed the hope that our present procedure will not create a

precedent. If no harm will result, why should we not postpone the consideration of the bill to the next session?

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: I may say that since we adjourned this morning I asked that same question, and was told that the society is most anxious that the provisions relating to membership in the Central Council—which affects Newfoundland—and to the French version of the name of the Society, be left in the bill. Of course the society is interested also in the passage of the subsection dealing with land values. I took the liberty of pointing out to the society representatives, the opposition which had been expressed, and my undertaking to the honourable senator from Thunder Bay (Hon. Mr. Paterson) to move at the next session that the subject matter of the bill be considered before a committee.

If the section dealing with land values fails to pass, I feel that the bill will be before us next session, and will then comply with the rules of this honourable body.

I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of the leader of the government in consenting to the consideration of this bill, but I would call the attention of the house to the fact that this bill is no ordinary private bill, initiated in the Senate, but one which comes to us after passing through the other house. I would much appreciate unanimous agreement to consider the measure now.

Hon. Mr. Golding: May I ask the honourable senator if the society gave any reason for bringing this measure before the house at such a late date? Surely it knows of the parliamentary rules and regulations governing such matters.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: I have already mentioned, I think, that I knew nothing about the matter until a quarter to eleven this morning. I did some long-distance telephoning and learned that the Society particularly wanted the passage of the sections dealing with land values and the French name of the Society. There is the further section of the bill relating to the Central Council and Executive Committee. That will be important to them because of the extension of their work. I did not ask why they had waited so long: I do not know how long this bill was before the other house; as the honourable the Speaker has pointed out, it came before us somewhat in the guise of a public rather than a private bill.

Hon. Mr. Nicol: Speaking on the motion for suspension of the rules, I must express my opinion that if there is any legislation in respect of which the rules should be observed, it is a bill of this kind. A very large number of people all over the country are interested in this society, and the public in general