

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I am not going to object, but I would like more time to consider it. We are getting a little too much of this kind of thing from this administration. Every bill which has come to this house lately has been delayed until the last moment. We are on the verge of rising, and we are asked to pass bills which are full of detail, and give them three readings in a single sitting. Perhaps representations might be made to us concerning them. I do not like it.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: May I say to the honourable senator that I am quite willing to have this bill referred to a committee.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: The bill can be placed on the Order Paper for third reading tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: The bill can be referred to a committee, discussed in committee tomorrow morning, and given third reading tomorrow afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Well, let us do that, at least. The bill ought to be referred to a committee, and there should be two or three weeks' delay between the time of the introduction of this measure here and our final passing on it. We should invite representations from the unions, and from the associations involved, if there are such, like the Civil Service, and others, and they should be given a chance to inform us. There should be sufficient delay so that anyone who objects to this bill can bring his objections to our attention. That is essential for measures of this kind, which are important in principle, at least, if not in application. However, I am not going to hold up Parliament, and I am not going to give an excuse to the Government to blame me for delaying the bill. I simply wish to voice my objection to this practice of continually bringing bills here and asking us to put them through three readings in a single sitting.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: Third reading tomorrow, then?

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Next sitting.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: Next sitting.

The Hon. the Speaker: Third reading stands.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. Aseltine moved the second reading of bill 249, to amend the Northwest Territories Act.

He said: Honourable senators,—

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I appreciate the welcome I received the other day, as I also appreciate the applause with which you greet me at the present moment. I am very pleased indeed to be able to take part once more in the work of this chamber.

I assure honourable senators that this bill which I am sponsoring will not give them very much difficulty, and I doubt very much if the bill will need to go to a committee. Perhaps it might also receive third reading today. I say that because this legislation, I am informed, was in contemplation by the previous administration, but had not been brought down before the election.

Honourable senators, Bill 249 is an Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Act in two particulars. The Northwest Territories Act is chapter 331 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952. The bill provides for two amendments, and with the consent of the Senate I shall deal first with the second amendment, which has to do with section 32 of the act. The section is not very long, and I propose to read it so that honourable senators will fully understand the change which is proposed. It deals with police magistrates in the Northwest Territories.

Subsection 1 reads as follows:

The Governor in Council may appoint one or more persons who are barristers or advocates of at least three years' standing at the bar of any of the provinces of Canada to be police magistrates in and for the Territories and may fix their salaries and allowances.

Subsection 2 says:

A police magistrate holds office during pleasure, shall reside in the Territories during his term of office and shall not, during such term, practise as a barrister or solicitor.

I may say that all the western provinces have had difficulty getting provincial magistrates, principally because in the past the salaries offered were not sufficient to attract qualified men; but even lately, since the salaries have been increased substantially, we in Saskatchewan have had difficulty getting police magistrates, and we have imported some from Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: You could not do better.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Halifax North): An excellent choice.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The same situation applies in the Northwest Territories. Apparently they have not been able to get enough barristers and solicitors who reside in the Territories to act as police magistrates. It is therefore necessary to amend section 32 of the Northwest Territories Act by adding subsection 3 to provide for the appointment