

obviously available to the department and to the minister back in 1976 because it was on its basis that Bill C-27 was drawn up. The minister admitted that he had to change the figure because the bill had been drawn up some time ago.

● (1200)

I think it reprehensible that this review was not made available to members until February of this year. The minister stated that the review was supposed to be the Valhalla for all the changes in Bill C-27, but now he has sprung Bill C-27 on us and admits it was drawn up some time ago. One must remember that these changes were alluded to in the 1976 budget, yet we did not receive the bill until 1977. Now we are told the bill must be passed in haste so that parliament can have its recess, and extra sittings have been arranged so we can get it through in time. Here is a bill that has been sitting in the government's store place, wherever it might be. Perhaps they keep it in the same place as the chipmunks store their nuts. Now the minister comes forward and amends it because it is a year old. I do not think that is treating parliament with dignity and respect. This review was done in 1973 and 1974, and it was based on the situation at that time seen from the viewpoint of Canada Manpower Centres and the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

I think it is treating the House with disrespect for the minister to bring in a bill that is a year old and has had to be amended so as to bring the estimates in line with the situation this year.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I understand that the House will adjourn at 12:15 in order to take part in Canada Week celebrations. However, I think we can dispose very quickly of the matter which I wish to bring to the attention of the House. Motion No. 27 on the order paper was introduced earlier by the minister, but because of a procedural difficulty in that it went somewhat beyond the scope of the bill, Mr. Speaker did not allow it. However, as I understand it, the House can accept a motion if there is all-party agreement. This is what I am now seeking in moving the following motion:

That Bill C-27, an act to establish the Department of Employment and Immigration, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and the Canada Employment and Immigration Advisory Council, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971 and to amend certain other statutes in consequence thereof, be amended by adding immediately after line 2 at page 31, the following new clause:

"60.1 Section 114 of the said act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"114. Information, written or oral, obtained by the commission of the Department of Employment and Immigration from any person under this

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act or any regulation thereunder shall be made available only to the employees of the commission or the said Department in the course of their employment and such other persons as the minister deems advisable, and neither the commission, the said department, nor any of their employees is compellable to answer any question concerning such information, or to produce any records or other documents containing such information as evidence in any proceedings not directly concerned with the enforcement or interpretation of this Act or the regulations."

The essential words in the section which I am seeking to amend are "such other persons as the commission deems advisable". In other words, confidential information would not only be restricted to the employees of the commission, but they could give it to any Tom, Dick or Harry who came knocking on their door. The minister understands it is wrong, I understand it is wrong, and I am sure hon. members to my left understand that such a procedure is not only wrong but is totally unacceptable. So the minister, in his wisdom—which sometimes comes forth very rapidly—moved an amendment, which I am moving now, whereby information obtained by the commission shall be made available to employees of the minister or persons whom the minister deems advisable. We now have some ministerial responsibility and I am sure hon. members will find no fault with that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) seeks the consent of the House to move the motion which he has just read. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion (Mr. Alexander) agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): As this is the last motion before the House, perhaps we might vote on motions on today's order paper.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, there have been the usual discussions with respect to deferred votes on motions under Bill C-27, and I think there is a disposition to defer voting on all the items until at least this evening. I understand the precise time will be specified later in the day.

Mr. Paproski: It is so agreed, Mr. Speaker.

● (1210)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we agree; but this is the first time I have heard it suggested that these votes would not come until 9.45 p.m., as indicated by the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. MacFarlane). There are 10 or 12 votes, and I think they should take place at an earlier hour than 9.45.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, at this stage the time has not been specified. It would be fixed in the normal course of negotiations.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is it agreed?