

hon. gentlemen are prepared to go for the purpose of preventing anything like a fair discussion of this question.

Mr. VIEN: No.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am not at all disturbed by the chorus. I invite more of it.

Mr. VIEN: We invite fair discussion, not that kind of thing.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The hon. member from Lotbinière goes too far. He is talking nonsense.

Mr. VIEN: The nonsense is not on my part.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am going to ask the Minister of the Interior what changes were made in this bill, except the change in the preamble and the change by adding the words "straitened circumstances."

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The only observation I have to make is that my hon. friend said three minutes ago there was no change at all.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I never said that and the hon. gentleman ought to be able to know I did not say that. He knows very well I did not say it. I could not have said it.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Look in Hansard.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We will forget what has been said, and I now ask the Minister of the Interior what changes were made, except the change in the preamble and the addition of the words "straitened circumstances." What else was there?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): If my hon. friend admits that and sticks to that ground I have no complaint.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is the only ground I have ever taken—nothing else. I have dealt with the preamble.

Mr. POULIOT: Does the hon. member think the preamble is material or immaterial to the bill?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I have already tried to make plain that the preamble in the legal sense may be of great importance. It is a matter of great importance where there is a question as to the proper interpretation of the clauses of the act. In that case it is important.

Mr. GRAHAM: Is not the preamble really the foundation of the bill?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Not at all. If my hon. friend is right in that, the bill is no good without a preamble, because it is without foundation, and in that case it is useless. My hon. friend is entirely wrong; but in this case—and I am now addressing myself to the hon. member who asked me the question—in this case there is no question of doubt as to the terms, and therefore, there is no importance in the preamble. The act will be construed exactly the same with or without the preamble. Now I come to the other point—

Mr. POULIOT: Does the hon. member think it is better to have a reason to do something than to have none?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The hon. gentleman is quite right. It is better to have a reason. I would be pleased if we could always have the reasons stated fairly and honestly by this government. I have no doubt as to my reasons and where I stand. I would commend my hon. friend to turn his hand to preaching the gospel to this government.

I come to the second point. What is the difference between "need" and "straitened circumstances"? Anybody that is at all honest with himself knows there is no difference. Not a single extra depositor of the Home Bank will get five cents as a result of that amendment, and no one knows that better than the government itself. The signal for retreat is sounded. The flags
4 a.m. are furled. The government come back. We have to take just

what the Senate says. All opportunity has been lost of having in that conference a real consideration of the claims of the depositors, and everything that I said before this question went over to the Senate has been proven to be true. I want to see these depositors helped. As a result of the position which my hon. friend has deliberately placed himself in, I do not see how we can get anything more for them now unless, of course, another estimate were submitted. But as the matter stands now, even at the expense of the constitutional claims of this chamber being flouted, there are the compelling rights and needs of 80 per cent of the depositors, and as a result of the manner in which the government has handled the constitutional question on the one side and the claims of the depositors on the other, I have no objection to action being taken now along the course that is indicated.