

Supply—Finance

of his report. This is in a letter from Mr. MacGregor to Mr. Putnam. The first paragraph reads as follows:

I have questioned and objected to the present arrangements mainly from two aspects, although to a large extent they are closely related. The first was the improper position of yourself as president and a director entering into contracts and arrangements that I think clearly violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the act; and the second was the improvident nature of the entire arrangements from the company's point of view.

With regard to the improvident nature of the arrangements, he has this to say, as found at page xliii:

Turning now to the improvident nature of the present arrangements from the company's point of view, the simple fact is that the company would pay more under the lease than it would to take over the sale agreement . . .

It is very difficult, Mr. Chairman, to understand how the president of a company can argue that this company could not afford a cash payment of \$15,000 because they wanted to keep their assets in a liquid position. When the president offered the other directors the privilege, they turned it down and he took it on.

The discussion in connection with this matter—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Chairman, I can quite realize that some hon. members do not want—

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, has the rule against tedious repetition been suspended?

Mr. Nicholson: If the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration wishes to defend this sort of behaviour I wish he would have enough courage to stand up and say so, instead of interrupting an hon. member who has the floor.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I have been challenged. I do not defend—nor would I attempt to do so—tedious repetition which is against the rules of the house and in which the hon. gentleman is indulging.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to refer to the tedious repetition. There has been no tedious repetition. I ask him to apologize, Mr. Chairman, for suggesting that this has been tedious repetition.

The Chairman: Order. There is no necessity whatsoever for the minister to apologize for such a remark. At the same time I am not going to decide as yet that there is tedious repetition.

Mr. Nicholson: I suggest, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Harris: If you will permit me to intervene, may I say that I was under the impression—and I could be wrong, Mr. Chairman—

that my hon. friend was reading correspondence that had already been referred to, in fact, sentence by sentence, by the leader of the party to which my hon. friend belongs. I wonder whether the hon. member for MacKenzie would not accept what I thought was a fairly frank statement on my part as to what I thought about this transaction, my undertaking that I would continue to look into the matter during the period of time that I hope to have when we prorogue, and my assurance that I am hopeful that we shall not have to discuss this matter under my estimates next year? Would the hon. member not do that so we can fix a time when we can prorogue?

Mr. Lennard: Carried.

Mr. Nicholson: I would have been through by now, Mr. Chairman, if I had not been interrupted by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. His interjection would give me the privilege of speaking for another half hour. However, my respect for the other hon. members of the house will cause me to refrain from exercising my rights.

I do not wish to conclude without referring to the fact that the superintendent of insurance took exception to the item in connection with supplying a Cadillac car to the president out of the funds of the company, and to the fact that, on the last page, he gives a table showing what the position of the company would have been. If the company had bought the whole property they would have had the property, taking into account interest and payments, for \$236,000. They would have owned the property at the end of 20 years after allowing for interest and payments. But they will have paid, according to the present rental arrangement, \$357,000. I am glad the minister has agreed to have a look at this matter. I hope that, a year from now, he will be able to give us a favourable explanation of the disposition of the case.

An hon. Member: Amen!

Item agreed to.

The Chairman: Shall I rise and report the resolutions?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.