

Combines Investigation Act

In respect of this motion for second reading my hon. friend moved:

That the said bill be not now read the second time but that the subject matter thereof be referred to the standing committee on banking and commerce with instructions that they have power to send for persons, papers and records and that in addition to other recommendations with respect to the subject matter of the bill they shall also have power to report upon the extent to which the effective administration of legislation relating to restrictive trade practices has been, or is being, prejudiced by the action of the government . . .

And so on. The point that I make there is that when it is proposed to send the subject matter of this bill to a committee of parliament it means that a committee of parliament is being directed to make policy for this government. If that is not a motion of want of confidence then, sir, I do not know what it is.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it might assist us to understand this extraordinary argument if we were told in what way this differs from the reference of any other matter to any other committee of parliament.

Mr. Garson: Well, I am not suggesting for a moment, Mr. Speaker, that it does differ from sending any other matter to a committee. What I do suggest is that when the government of the day brings down a bill in which is set out government policy in respect of the subject matter of that bill, a motion to send the subject matter of the bill to a committee of parliament in order that a committee of parliament may work out policy in respect to that subject matter it is in substance, if not in form, a motion of want of confidence.

I have detained the house at great length. I have done so, amongst other reasons, in order to convince the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell), and some of his colleagues, that we were attempting to make a serious answer. He was objecting to the fact that we had not made a serious answer to any of the charges.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): To the point I raised.

Mr. Garson: And I have spoken at some length on that account, attempting to deal, point by point, with those which have been raised.

I should like to close with the suggestion that I think there is nothing the parliamentary committee could bring forth with regard to this matter that we do not already know. The flour report speaks for itself. The memoranda of Mr. Gordon speak for themselves. There has been a very full disclosure of all the relevant facts. I do not think for one moment that the divergence of opinion between high-ranking public servants can be

resolved by the committee. That being so the only purpose a reference would accomplish would be to delay the matter. And, sir, for our part we are anxious to get on with the prosecution of the bakeries report, and we would urge that the motion in amendment be voted down.

The house divided on the amendment (Mr. Drew) which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Argue	Harris (Danforth)
Balcer	Hatfield
Beyerstein	Herridge
Black (Cumberland)	Higgins
Blackmore	Johnston
Blair	Jones
Brooks	Knight
Browne (St. John's West)	Knowles
Bryce	Lennard
Cardiff	Low
Casselman	Macdonnell (Greenwood)
Catherwood	MacInnis
Charlton	McGregor
Church	McLure
Coldwell	Murphy
Courtemanche	Noseworthy
Coyle	Pearkes
Diefenbaker	Shaw
Drew	Smith (Calgary West)
Fair	Stewart (Winnipeg North)
Fleming	Thatcher
Fraser	Thomas
Gagnon	White (Hastings-Peterborough)
Gillis	White (Middlesex East)
Graydon	Wright—53.
Green	
Hansell	
Harkness	

NAYS

Messrs:

Anderson	Cote (Verdun-LaSalle)
Applewhaite	Cournoyer
Arsenault	Croll
Ashbourne	Darroch
Bater	Decore
Beaudoin	Denis
Belzile	Dewar
Bennett	Dickey
Black (Chateauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie)	Dion
Blanchette	Douglas
Blue	Dumas
Boisvert	Elderkin
Boivin	Eudes
Bonnier	Eyre
Boucher	Fauteux
Bradette	Ferrie
Bradley	Fournier (Hull)
Breithaupt	Fournier (Maisonneuve-Rosemont)
Brisson	Fulford
Brown (Essex West)	Garland
Byrne	Garson
Cameron	Gauthier (Lake St. John)
Campney	Gauthier (Sudbury)
Carroll	Gauthier (Lapointe)
Carter	Gauthier (Portneuf)
Cauchon	George
Cavers	Gibson (Hamilton West)
Claxton	Gibson (Comox-Alberni)
Cleaver	Gingues
Cloutier	Gosselin
Conacher	Gour (Russell)
Corry	Gregg

[Mr. Garson.]