

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: Honourable gentlemen, that was the position that I took. I made the direct statement that the proposed amendment imposed a tax, an extra charge on the Treasury. I asked your ruling, Mr. Speaker, as to whether it was in order or not.

Hon. Mr. BELAND: That is correct. The honourable gentleman raised the point.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: On that particular point I would have to rule that it is not in order.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That the amendment is not in order?

The Hon. the SPEAKER: In so far as it creates a charge.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: I do not rise to discuss the decision of the honourable the Speaker, only I think I might point out, with the leave of the Senate and with his Honour's leave, that Mr. Finlayson, in the statement which has just been read by the honourable leader of the Government, does not say that the amendment will increase the public burden: he says it may.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I took it to mean that he did say so.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: No; he says it may. He cannot tell to what extent. He does not say it does.

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: Does he not quote there that it will be about \$550,000?

Hon. W. B. ROSS: I was going to say, honourable gentlemen, that I am sorry that this Bill should miscarry, because from the information that I have had I think that it would work out well; that is to say, it would let in a class of persons, to the number of seven or eight thousand, who cannot afford to come in now, but would as a matter of fact, whether you liked it or not, in five, ten, or fifteen years from now, be the subject of new legislation, which would mean that in the long run you would escape none of the burden. Now this question has been raised. I had thought of it, but did not raise it—I said nothing about it—because I assumed, for some reason or another, that the Government were aware of the fact that the Senate intended to make the proposed amendment. But I agree with the ruling of His Honour the Speaker. It all falls under section 53 of the British North America Act:

Bills for appropriating any part of the public revenue, or for imposing any tax or impost, shall originate in the House of Commons.

The reason I read this is to suggest that if the House of Commons would send us a message to say that they consent that we should deal with it, that would remove the whole difficulty.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: Section 54 says:

It shall not be lawful for the House of Commons to adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address or Bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue or of any tax or impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended to that House by message of the Governor General in the Session in which such vote, resolution, address or Bill is proposed.

Hon. Mr. ROSS: They would get the consent of the Crown.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: Of course, the powers of the Senate would not extend beyond those of the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. ROSS: This thing has been done in other colonies. The Commons got the consent of the Crown, and then they sent a message to the Senate or the Upper House, saying that they might proceed to deal with the matter.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: For my part I think it is important that we should be careful always to remain within the unanimous decision of the Senate on these questions.

Hon. Mr. ROSS: I think that is a wise observation.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: Otherwise we shall not know where we stand. I think the ruling of the Chair is quite in accord with the decision of the House.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Will by honourable friend (Hon. W. B. Ross) move that a message be sent to the other House, requesting the other House to obtain the additional power, if necessary? There is a clear invitation to do so, in the speech of Mr. Malcolm, who suggested that those who have influence in this House might exert that influence here in order to get it done. One is naturally inclined to believe that if a request were made to the other House to get power to deal with this, it could be put through probably this Session.

Hon. Mr. ROSS: I think the honourable gentleman who is in charge of the Bill would be the man to do that. All I can say is that, so far as I know the facts, if a message of that kind came to us, I would be prepared to vote for this Bill, because I am in sympathy with it.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: It seems to me, honourable gentlemen, that the matter rests with the honourable gentle-