

matter to the attention of the Government with a view to seeing what can be done.

The senior senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) said that perhaps this bill should go to a committee. I would have no objection to that, but at this moment I do not think it is possible to take enough time to do so. This is an emergency measure, and the minister is very anxious that it be passed by both houses in order that the money can be made available, for the reasons I have mentioned. I assure honourable senators that on every occasion when it is possible to send a bill of this kind, or, indeed of any other kind, to a committee, I shall be glad to do so, but in this particular case I would like to see the bill passed without being sent to a committee. As a matter of fact, the committees are not yet set up, and if we were to wait until we can refer this bill to the Banking and Commerce Committee, say after the chairmen of the various committees have been chosen, and so on, passage of the bill might be delayed until next week. I know the minister is very anxious that it receive the royal assent tomorrow if possible.

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** May I ask the leader if the bill could not be discussed by the Committee of the Whole House immediately?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I could not answer any more questions in the Committee of the Whole House than I have already answered.

**Hon. Mr. Dupuis:** An officer of the department could be called in.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I do not think that would be satisfactory in this particular case. Later on we might have a debate on the whole housing question; it seems to me that could be arranged. I assure honourable senators that I have done my best to answer all questions that have been asked of me. If there are any others that require to be answered I will be glad to do so tomorrow on third reading.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** May I ask my honourable friend if it is his intention to send this bill to a committee?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I have just dealt with that at great length.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** I am sorry, I was not here. The important point is, is the bill going to a committee?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** No. It is so urgent that we would not have time to send it to a committee, for the committees are not yet set up.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** I thought the committees were already set up, according to the record of *Hansard*.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** The chairmen are not yet chosen, nor the quorums arranged.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Well, surely the committee could meet and appoint a chairman *pro tem*. I wish to enter a protest against a refusal, or a reluctance, to send this bill to a committee. After all, what are we doing by this proposed legislation? We are putting an additional charge on the consolidated revenue fund of \$350 million, and surely that is a matter of some consequence. I certainly wish my honourable friend well, and at the proper time I shall offer him some congratulations, but I think that a measure which puts an additional charge of \$350 million on the revenue is worth some consideration by a committee of this house.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** The principle of this bill was fully decided upon when the measure was before the house last November, when the amount was raised to \$400 million. The present measure is just a continuation of the situation and put men to work and keep them working. I did not propose to send the bill working. I did not propose to send the bill to a committee.

**Hon. Mr. Baird:** You do not need to.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** That is all I know about it.

**Hon. Mr. Golding:** Question.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** Next sitting.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** Honourable senators, may I ask if it is the intention of the Government to obtain the royal assent to this bill tomorrow?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** Tomorrow at 5:45 p.m., if possible.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.