

more than any other needs a face-lifting treatment. I would suggest also that, in my opinion, Ottawa is the city that would respond least to treatment of that kind. You could pour the entire resources of the country into this place to carry out the plans of a few people, and how many folks throughout the nation would have an opportunity to see the result? I have enjoyed being driven around this city by some of my friends, seeing the drives which no doubt will be extended under the measure now before this house. But I am sure a casual visitor to this city would be astounded to find that in order to get to a streetcar in the morning to go to work he had to stumble over ashcans and garbage cans, even on many of the so-called respectable streets. Further, while I have had the pleasure of meeting many people here who have been kind and friendly and, as individuals, quite hospitable and fine, I could take you to many a prairie town which would show a decided improvement over the city of Ottawa when it comes to a cooperative spirit in wanting to do something to the advantage of their city without having to ask the government for money all the time.

I shall detain the house for only a moment longer, but I want to add that I hope to be able to return to my own constituency within a few weeks, and when the veterans there ask me what I have done and what the government have done so that they may get homes for themselves and their families I shall reply, "My friends, we have made plans to beautify Ottawa." I must say that a short time ago a school burned down—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Six o'clock.

Mr. BURTON: Perhaps you would call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker; I see some hon. members are anxious to take recess.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 347, for the relief of Fania Pustopedskaites Sobolevicius, otherwise known as Fanny Pustopedsky Sobolevicius.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 348, for the relief of Frances Mary Fisk Irwin.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 349, for the relief of Lilius Clark Watt James.—Mr. Brown.

[Mr. Burton.]

Bill No. 350, for the relief of Michael Gibson.—Mr. Emmerson.

Bill No. 351, for the relief of Azarie Trottier.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 352, for the relief of Elizabeth Sharp Hamelin.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 353, for the relief of Lucille Aimée Cadieux Lacombe.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 354, for the relief of Mary Wetstein Szabo.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 355, for the relief of Brandla Lylerburg Guz, otherwise known as Bertha Silverberg Gass.—Mr. McGregor.

Bill No. 356, for the relief of Natalie Kathleen Fearon Kirouac.—Mr. Baker.

JUDGES ACT

JUDGES NOT TO ACT AS COMMISSIONERS OR ARBITRATORS—TO BE BOUND BY DECISION OF COURT OF FINAL APPEAL

The house resumed from April 16 consideration of the motion of Mr. Church for the second reading of bill No. 13, to amend the Judges Act.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): I did not happen to be in the house when the matter was up before about bill No. 13, to amend the Judges Act. The first part of this amendment which deals with judges acting as commissioners or arbitrators has already been dealt with. The second part refers to a matter commented upon by the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) when he replied to the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) on Friday night. I contend that there should be a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada to decide whether federal judges appointed under this act of the parliament of Canada should not be bound by the decisions of the court of last resort, in other words whether the doctrine of *stare decisis* should apply. That doctrine is that the decision of a court of record is authoritative and must be followed by judges appointed under this act.

There have been a number of decisions in the province of Quebec, and Chief Justice Greenshields decided that judges appointed under this act were bound by the decisions of the imperial committee of the privy council, following this doctrine. By the act of 1792 considerable law was copied into the statutes of Ontario and Quebec, such law as was adapted to our circumstances. During the discussion on the second reading of this bill I agreed to bring up the matter on the estimates so as not to take up the time of the house, but I suggest to the minister now that he should consider referring this matter to the supreme court for a decision. I submit that