

Retirement Age for Senators

from the explanatory notes accompanying the bill:

The object of this Bill is to restrict the powers of the Legislative Council over Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Let me quote some of the sections, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is important that we put them on the record.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the hon. gentleman tell us if that bill has passed both Houses?

Mr. Orlikow: I will come to that. I think there is a lesson the Minister could learn from what is happening in Quebec if he would have the courage to follow the convictions he is supposed to have. I quote the following sections:

1. If the Legislative Council does not pass without amendment, within one month, a money bill passed by the Legislative Assembly, the bill shall nevertheless be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor for assent and shall become law accordingly, unless the Legislative Assembly directs to the contrary.

2. All Bills for appropriating any part of the public revenue of the Province, or for imposing, altering or repealing any tax allocated to such revenue, or for legislating on any subordinate matter incidental thereto, are money Bills.

3. There shall be endorsed on every money bill when it is sent up to the Legislative Council and when it is presented to the Lieutenant-Governor for assent the Certificate of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly signed by him that it is a money bill.

4. If a bill other than a money bill is passed by the Legislative Assembly in two sessions—whether of the same legislature or not—and, having been sent up to the Legislative Council at least one month before the end of the session, is there rejected each time, it shall nevertheless be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor for assent and shall become law accordingly, unless the Legislative Assembly directs to the contrary.

This section shall not apply unless one year has elapsed between the date of the second reading of the bill in the Legislative Assembly in the first of those sessions and the date on which it passed the Legislative Assembly in the second session.

This section shall not apply to a bill containing a provision to extend the duration of a legislature beyond five years.

I think I have given the key clauses of the bill. The Minister of Transport asks what happened to it, and that is a good question. I will tell him what happened. The Legislative Council, which is analogous to the Senate, amended a number of key provisions of the bill. What did Mr. Lesage do? Mr. Lesage did what the Prime Minister of Canada has not got the courage to do. Mr. Lesage is sending that bill with a message to the Queen asking that the bill be approved as originally drafted without the consent of the Legislative Council. But this Government does not have

[Mr. Orlikow.]

the courage to put through a real measure to reform the Senate because they do not want to fight the Senate. So we get the weasel-like kind of thing which has been proposed in this bill. That is the difference between the Prime Minister of Canada and the Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec. When the Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec makes up his mind—

Mr. Regan: Premier.

Mr. Orlikow: Well, premier or prime minister. I will let the Members from Quebec educate the Member for Halifax as to the correct title. When the Prime Minister or Premier of Quebec decides to do something, he does not look for excuses not to act. He goes ahead and does it.

Mr. Walker: Would the hon. Member permit a question? I dislike breaking into his illogical argument, but I simply ask him whether he proposes to reform the Senate before or after he abolishes it?

Mr. Orlikow: It is obvious that the hon. Member for York Centre was not here when I began my speech or was not listening, because I made it very clear that in my opinion it is for the people who are opposed to abolition to make concrete proposals and to enact legislation which will reform the Senate. Since the hon. Member's party does not seem to have the ability to draft suitable amendments, may I suggest the kind of line they ought to follow?

Mr. Walker: May I ask a further question? Is this not comparable to making the prisoner healthy before you execute him?

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Member thinks that the Senators should be executed, all right. I do not believe in execution, even of Senators. I am against capital punishment. I simply want to abolish the Senate and let the Senators go into retirement without bothering the people of Canada or Parliament.

• (4:00 p.m.)

A number of proposals have been made for reform in the Senate. For example, it has been suggested the Senate would be made more useful if Senators were to represent the provinces. Mr. MacGregor Dawson has stated this was the original contention following Confederation when plans were made for the establishment of a Senate. Since I do not believe in the Senate I do not intend to pursue that kind of thinking very far, but for those who do believe the Senate has