

• (8:30 p.m.)

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that my amendment takes the law one step further in that it requires regulations to be tabled within ten days of approval. The present statute requires that the regulations passed during the year be tabled at the beginning of the next session of parliament. I am subject to correction, but it seems to me that this is the correct interpretation. If I am wrong, I hope the minister can correct me.

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, I think I should read section 7 of the Regulations Act, chapter 235 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952:

Every regulation shall be laid before parliament within 15 days after it is published in the Canada Gazette or, if parliament is not then in session, within 15 days after the commencement of the next ensuing session.

Is the hon. member satisfied with this?

Mr. Lambert: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Under the circumstances I would be prepared to withdraw my amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: Do I understand that the hon. member for Edmonton West wishes to withdraw the amendment?

Mr. Lambert: Yes, Mr. Chairman, under the circumstances.

The Deputy Chairman: Has the hon. member the leave of the committee to withdraw this amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Lambert) withdrawn.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Chairman, I am sure it has been a matter of delight to all of us that the Minister of Transport has paid just tribute to the Leader of the Opposition for the authorship of the Regulations Act. If the hon. gentleman would only pay equal tribute to the Leader of the Opposition for all his other great accomplishments in the government of Canada, then we on this side would have less to quarrel about with the hon. gentleman's party. It is a very important achievement of the Leader of the Opposition that has been spoken of tonight. It is one of the crusades of his life. But there have been quite a number of others, and those others, I am sure, will live equally in the memory of the hon. gentleman from Bonavista-Twillingate as has the one he mentioned tonight.

Unfortunately I do not have before me the Regulations Act, although I see that the Minister of Transport has it. If I recollect

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correctly, when Mr. St. Laurent adopted the suggestions of the then hon. member for Prince Albert it was thought there might be some weaknesses in the act. When the section was read by the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development he said that the regulations should be tabled within 15 days after publication in the Canada Gazette. If I recollect correctly, there was some concern at the time the Regulations Act was passed whether all regulations of every character should be published in the Canada Gazette. If the Minister of Transport will assure me that those regulations which come under clause 19 are of the kind which must be published in the Canada Gazette, then of course the clause which the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development has read is totally applicable. If they are not of such a character, then of course the clause is meaningless. This is the total issue, Mr. Chairman. My question can be simply answered yes or no.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think it is quite as simple as that, Mr. Chairman. The hon. gentleman is a lawyer and I am merely a poor layman—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: —unlearned in the law. But it would appear to me that the hon. gentleman is as well able to construe a statute as I am. I would think the answer to this question is a simple yes; but he knows the rules about ministers, and especially unlearned ministers, giving legal opinions. I am sure we would be delighted to hear his legal opinion, now that he has recollected the situation in respect of the passage of this act. I thank the hon. member and the hon. member for Edmonton West for giving me the opportunity to remind them of one of the few achievements of the leader which all of them seem to have forgotten.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Chairman, I should like to move that clause 19 be amended by adding the following words after the word "regulations" in line 1:

—subject to annual review by the House of Commons or a committee of the House of Commons.

In support of the amendment I have just suggested to the minister and the committee I should like to say that while there are provisions in the statutes now which provide that all the regulations made to administer any statute must be placed before this house at