

Private Bills

Mr. Gregoire: That is right.

Mr. Pigeon: During the week end, I had the opportunity to conduct a personal investigation, and I am going to put before the house new arguments to prevent the bill from being passed.

As I said before, all works erected on the St. Lawrence river, including bridges, causeways and wharves, are the exclusive property of either the federal government or the provincial government, or of the municipalities.

To date, Mr. Speaker, I do not know of any private concern which owns such works.

Besides, Canadian authorities have always kept a sovereignty over national resources such as the St. Lawrence river. That is why, Mr. Speaker, they have always refused—

[Text]

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm has already spoken in this debate and I doubt that he has the right to speak twice.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Has the hon. member already spoken in this debate?

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I am asking the unanimous consent of the house to allow me, in the public interest, to put forward worth-while arguments which all members of the house will find interesting, I believe.

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, we give our consent. Since the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm has worth-while arguments that should be brought before the house, we agree that he should put them forward, otherwise this would be closure.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, on the question of privilege—

[Text]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. The only condition under which the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm can speak again is by unanimous consent of the house.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Agreed.

Mr. Caouette: Agreed.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): On a point of order—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): There is not unanimous consent.

Mr. Gregoire: Closure. We will help the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm.

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed very seldom that the federal parliament has to deal with legislation such as Bill S-41 which seeks the authorization to build:

A bridge and a causeway on the St. Lawrence river—linking the shore of 94th avenue, in the city of Pointe-aux-Trembles, Montreal.

As was mentioned a while ago by the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm who, I regret, was denied the right to speak—

Mr. Gregoire: That is closure.

Mr. Caouette: —I feel that any bridge which crosses the St. Lawrence should belong to the federal government, to the province or even to a municipality, under an agreement with the federal government in many cases.

However, there was no need, in my opinion, to ask us to pass a bill of this nature to authorize the construction of a bridge which will give privileges to a private enterprise or even to a private individual.

I will say to the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Rouleau) that the same thing was done elsewhere. Any time a person wishes to reach the shore opposite his home, he just has to build a bridge without asking the government's permission or without having to present a private bill. He just goes ahead and if the federal government ever needs that land or has to change something to the private bridge, it is not bound by a bill or by legislation passed by the house.

Mr. Speaker, I will read the preamble of Bill S-41:

Whereas Developpement Central Ville de L'Isle Inc., a company duly incorporated by letters patent issued under the companies act of the province of Quebec, has acquired title to, is the owner and has the control of most of the territory of two islands lying within the harbour of Montreal, namely, Isle Ste Therese and Isle-aux-Asperges, most of which territory is presently used as farmland;

It appears that Developpement Central Ville de L'Isle Inc. is the owner and has the control of the lands on Isle Ste. Therese and Isle-aux-Asperges.

Whereas to provide for the full development of this territory, it is necessary to subdivide it into residential—

This has actually nothing to do with the federal government—
commercial—

Mr. Rouleau: That is why they want to build a bridge.

Mr. Caouette: I hear my hon. friend from Dollard (Mr. Rouleau) say that is why they want to build a bridge.