

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****CUBA—SENTENCE IMPOSED ON ARRESTED
CANADIAN CITIZEN**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, while appreciative of the fact that the Cuban government provided an open trial for the two Canadians charged with offences against that country, the sentence imposed on one of them of 30 years is difficult to understand on the basis of ordinary humanitarian principles. I would ask the minister what the government intends to do in this regard, and what are the possibilities, if he is able to say, of there being a major amelioration of the term imposed.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, at the present time all I can say in answer to the hon. gentleman is that an appeal is being lodged against the sentence in the case of one of the accused. What the result will be I cannot, of course, say; the course to be followed will depend on the outcome of the appeal.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, would the minister say to whom the appeal is being taken? Is it to a court, or is it to the president, or what is the technique?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the appeal will be taken to a military body that is of a judicial nature. It may be that the judicial body in question is the same body that tried the accused. This, of course, would be unusual under our procedures, and this has been indicated already in the discussions and conversations we have had with the ambassador here and with the government of Cuba itself.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Would the minister not say that an appeal like that, from the trying and sentencing body to that same body sitting en banc, would not be much of an appeal, although we have had that experience in our own country in connection with certain administrative appeals in the past? What has been the suggestion of the government of Canada in connection with the appeal? Has it been suggested that the appeal be direct to the president?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated the particular steps which would be involved under our procedures. The judicial body involved in the appeal may not be in accordance with our procedures. Having in mind the interests of the accused, I feel I cannot say any more at this moment.

the minister to introduce as early as possible a bill or a resolution that we could discuss so as to meet as quickly as possible the needs on both the domestic and foreign markets.

[Text]

RAILWAYS, AIR LINES AND SHIPPING**PERSONNEL OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Maurice Rinfret (St. James) moved:

That the sessional committee on railways, air lines and shipping appointed November 15, 1963, be composed of Messrs. Addison, Balcer, Bechard, Bell, Deachman, Fisher, Forbes, Granger, Gregoire, Gundlock, Hahn, Leboe, Lloyd, Macaluso, Mitchell, Monteith, Muir (Lisgar), Nugent, Prittie, Pugh, Richard, Rideout, Rouleau, Rock, Sauve and Southam.

Motion agreed to.

CONSUMER CREDIT**CONTROL OF USE OF COLLATERAL BILLS
AND NOTES**

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-113, to provide for control of the use of collateral bills and notes in consumer credit transactions.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know the Small Loans Act regulates part of the cash loan field in Canada. Somewhat by analogy to that act, this measure is designed to regulate the consumer credit field as far as I believe it is possible for the federal government to go at the present time until interpretations have been handed down by the courts defining provincial and federal jurisdiction with more certainty.

This bill has two main purposes; first of all, to give warning to makers of promissory notes given as collateral to deferred payment agreements in consumer credit transactions that they may become liable for payment of the notes to third parties who are innocent purchasers of the notes for value and without notice of the sale of goods transaction; second, to limit the rate of interest chargeable on such notes.

This bill offers alternatives and a somewhat different approach to ideas already contained in one or two bills which are before the special joint committee of both houses on consumer credit. It is my hope that with the unanimous consent of the house the Solicitor General will move to refer this bill to the joint committee on the motion for second reading.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.