

Proposed Legislation

in order that the sentence shall be carried out by a gas chamber and not by hanging until death.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

COPYRIGHTS

REPEAL AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING
LEGISLATION

Miss Judy V. LaMarsh (Niagara Falls) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-70, to provide for copyright in Canada and to implement the universal copyright convention.

Mr. Pickersgill: Explain.

Miss LaMarsh: This is the reintroduction of a bill which is simply intended to modernize legislation which has not been modernized since 1921.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker; I have no firm views on the matter, but I thought I should bring this to your attention and to the attention of the house. It is my recollection that there is already on the order paper government order No. 6, a resolution that it is expedient that the houses of parliament approve the universal copyright convention signed by Canada at Geneva in 1952, etc.

I confess I have not given attention to the details of the question, but it did occur to me that it might be appropriate to bring the matter to Your Honour's attention, perhaps for consideration later, as to whether it is proper that the hon. lady should be given leave to introduce her bill at the present time.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillington): Perhaps I may be allowed to say a word on the point which has been raised. It would appear to me that a resolution of the house would have no legislative effect. What the hon. lady is seeking to do is legislate to change the laws of Canada. There does not seem to me to be any incompatibility between the houses of parliament approving a convention which has been entered into and subsequent legislation to implement that convention.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Minister of Justice for drawing attention to the possible point of order. I think no conflict arises at this stage, though it might as the bills progress if they turn out to be identical or very similar; because the house cannot, of course, carry on the same debate under two headings. But at this stage I think there is no obstacle to the hon. lady proceeding with her bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[Miss LaMarsh.]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ONTARIO—REPORTED PLAN TO REORGANIZE COURTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Can the minister say if he has been consulted with respect to the proposed reorganization of the Ontario courts, introduced in the legislature yesterday by the attorney general; and if so is he prepared to introduce the necessary complementary legislation in this house in the near future?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): I am not aware of the particulars of any measure introduced by the attorney general in the Ontario legislature yesterday, so I cannot say whether I have been consulted on the precise proposal. I can say, however, that the attorney general of Ontario and I have had discussions on the desirability of increasing the number of judges of the high court of Ontario, and I have indicated that subject to the approval of my colleagues, I am prepared to recommend the appropriate legislation to this house.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING PURCHASE OF PACIFIC
GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Acting Minister of Transport. Will the minister inform the house whether there have been any discussions between members of the government or officers of the Canadian National Railways and members of the government of British Columbia or officers of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, with respect to the purchase of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway by the Canadian National Railways, or have any such discussions been proposed?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Acting Minister of Transport): I shall take the question as notice and refer it to the Minister of Transport, but it is obviously a question for the order paper; it is far too long for oral question and answer.

HEALTH INSURANCE

QUEBEC—ALLEGED BANKRUPTCY OF
HOSPITAL PLAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister aware that the government of Quebec has made bankrupt the hospitalization plan in that province?