

Ways and Means

with our right to discuss any of the items parts of which are in the bill?

Mr. Pennell: I am prepared to give that undertaking, Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall this bill be read a second time?

Some hon. Members: By consent, now.

Mr. Pennell (For Mr. Benson) moved the second reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Tardif in the chair.

On clause 2—\$1,118,202,797.17 granted for 1968-1969

Mr. Lambert: I should like to address a question to the Solicitor General and ask him whether there is any particular significance in requesting a third month of interim supply for the Chief Electoral Officer and in respect of the two legislative items covering this house and the other place.

Mr. Pennell: The vote for the office of the Chief Electoral Officer provides for the payments of salaries and administrative expenses. The additional proportion is requested to finance the purchase of shelving required, due to the moving of the office of the Chief Electoral Officer. This shelving is to be installed in early April. I cannot recall the other two items the hon. member mentioned.

Mr. Lambert: Items 5 and 20 in connection with this house and the other place.

Mr. Pennell: As to item 5, the additional proportion is required because the expenditures are in excess of the proportion per month while the Senate is in session. The sessional year is usually of eight months duration, thus the customary additional proportion is required. To deal with the item relating to the Commons, the additional proportion is requested to cover expenses of the house while sitting. Expenditures of the house exceed the one twelfth per month while it is in session, as the amount of the vote is based on a sessional year of approximately nine months.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. Knowles: May I ask the Minister of Industry just one question. Will he take the representations made today, concerning the pensions of retired civil servants, to the cabinet at its next meeting?

[Mr. Knowles.]

Mr. Drury: I will be glad to, Mr. Chairman. Clause agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 inclusive agreed to.

Schedules A, B and C agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I move that we rise now, suspend the sitting and resume at the call of the Chair.

Mr. Schreyer: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, might I ask the acting house leader what happened to the government undertaking or intention to bring forward legislation to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act? I understand the house leaders consulted and it was agreed that it be brought forward today.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether this is a point of order, but perhaps the minister might be allowed to answer the question.

Mr. Pennell: Mr. Speaker, the government was anxious to proceed with this measure. However, in view of the agreement last evening we felt we ought not to make any suggestions without unanimous consent. I understand there were negotiations but they were not fruitful, and I think that explains the situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps I might be allowed to invite hon. members to a non-partisan leadership seminar in room 16 before the house will resume its sitting at the call of the bells. I do now leave the chair.

Motion agreed to.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 5.15 p.m. the sitting of the house was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 6.30 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received