

Private Bills

effect next July 1. Instead, we have the spectacle of the Minister of Finance trying by indirection to defeat the will of parliament regarding that limited insurance program under public auspices. I am sure this scheme will operate efficiently and at less cost. It should not be sabotaged or delayed.

It would be much more interesting if instead of dealing with the proposals contained in this bill the Minister of Finance would stand in his place and say that as part of his battle to fight inflation he intends to extend the medical care insurance plan to cover sickness insurance as a public responsibility. It is my suggestion that if such a plan were developed for everyone in Canada, anyone who was unfortunate enough to be sick or ill would not suffer a complete loss of income. This is the type of thing in which parliament should be interested instead of a passive acceptance of a situation which allows private businesses owned by foreign enterprises to drain the hard-won wealth of Canadians from this country. Somehow I get the impression that hon. members think we are just being ornery when we stand here making speeches in opposition to the passage of this type of bill.

An hon. Member: There is no doubt about that.

Mr. Barnett: We are trying to make it plain that in respect of bills of this kind we have nothing against the particular company involved but we feel there are sufficient companies engaged in this type of activity. The company named in this bill is no better or worse as far as we know than any other foreign company which attempts to gain control of the financial resources and savings of this country in order to use them somewhere else for the benefit of someone else. I cannot understand why parliament is prepared to carry on this procedure just because it was done 100 years ago. We should not accept this ancient ritual or mumbo jumbo in relation to private enterprise. We should not carry on placidly accepting this type of proposal which will allow the exploitation of the people.

The idea of pooled risk insurance is good but why should the present situation be perpetuated? The Canadian people are being forced to obtain protection through pooled risk insurance in a slap-dash, haphazard, inefficient and expensive way. This is the reasoning behind the amendment that this bill be not now read a second time but be read this day six months hence. Everyone is

[Mr. Barnett.]

aware of the intent of such a motion. While it suggests a period of six months, members of the house realize that it means the proposal should not be accepted by parliament during this or any other session. That is the proposal we have before us in the amendment moved by the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert), seconded by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Fawcett).

• (6:20 p.m.)

I would like to see members in other quarters of the house participate in debating this whole issue because in my submission this question is coming closer to home all the time. I think hon. members should realize that in this respect we cannot forever delay a decision on whether we are going to move toward the efficient operation of pooled risk as protection against individual loss under an efficiently operated public plan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I must advise the hon. member that the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on a couple of points that have been raised by my colleague the hon. member for—

Mr. Barnett: Comox-Alberni.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Yes, Comox-Alberni. I keep getting these double and triple name constituencies mixed up. It seems that almost every hon. member from that far province has three or four long and tongue-twisting names to his constituency.

I should like to dwell for a few moments on one of the points raised by the previous speaker. If this bill is passed by the house and the company is incorporated, all it will really do is add one more to the great conglomeration of such companies that we have at the present time. I should also like to dwell for a few moments on some of the implications involved in this proposal. If this company is to operate successfully once it is established it will have a tough row to hoe. It will have to start a great advertising campaign to make itself known. It will have to buck the other companies. It will have to take advantage of the various advertising media—newspapers, radio and television. It will probably have to compete with some of the companies that now bring us all this great, free entertainment about which we hear so much, those that bring us free shows and hour-long television broadcasts. Of