

Financial Administration Act

notice given in *Votes and Proceedings* before a bill can be introduced in the house. It is that notice that the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) had in mind asking the house to waive so the bill could be introduced tomorrow.

Mr. Pearson: May I say a word on a question of privilege? I would have had a good deal to say about what should or should not have been done in connection with this matter if I had not considered myself out of order at this time in trying to do so.

On the question of procedure, we would be glad to expedite matters and give first reading this evening at ten o'clock. Then we could go ahead tomorrow with the second reading.

Mr. Speaker: Then perhaps, proceeding one stage at a time, I might ask if the house will give unanimous consent to the first reading tomorrow?

Some hon. Members: No, ten o'clock tonight.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Prime Minister proposing that first reading be tonight?

Mr. Diefenbaker: That would be all right.

Mr. Speaker: Does the house give unanimous consent to first reading tonight, notwithstanding the rules?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It being five o'clock, the house will now proceed to the consideration of private and public bills.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR PRINTING OF
NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS IN BOTH
ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-6, to amend the Financial Administration Act. He said:

(Translation):

Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska): Mr. Speaker, it is the third time that I have the honour of introducing this bill the purpose of which is to provide that every cheque, draft, traveller's cheque, bill of exchange, postal note, money order, postal remittance and any other similar remittance of any department as defined in paragraph (f) of section 2 of the Financial Administration Act or of any crown corporation enumerated in schedules B, C and D of the same act, shall be printed in both the English and the French languages.

I do not wish to bring up again the arguments I put forth in support of my motion

[Mr. Fulton.]

during the debates that took place in 1958 and 1959. I merely wish to bring forward a few statements made by prominent Canadians about the advantages of bilingualism in Canada. As reported in the June 1960 issue of the *Imperial Oil Review*, Mr. Hugh MacLennan, a distinguished Canadian writer, stated the following:

For a long time, Canadians of the two main ethnic groups have been looking forward to the day when happy relations will be established between English speaking and French speaking citizens. Is it not the first requirement of a true nation from the spiritual and the economic point of view? Let each group succeed in learning the language of the other, and we shall have accomplished good progress toward that ideal. The problem is big enough but not insuperable.

I also wish to report another testimony of a distinguished Canadian, the Speaker of the house, who stated at the Alliance Nationale conference held in Ottawa:

... mutual understanding between English speaking and French speaking Canadians would be much easier if everybody were bilingual.

Everyone must try to identify himself with both groups.

I could quote many other testimonies, but I shall leave off at this point so that we may pass this measure as soon as possible. I feel that any speech tending to extend the debate would indicate that government members who introduced the same legislation cannot count on the co-operation of their colleagues for the passage of their own bill.

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to take part in this debate, but I have a few remarks to make in reply to the reference just made by the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska (Mr. Boulanger).

Last year, when I brought down my bill, the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska offered a few comments, and I do not see that it did any harm to the bill.

I have been putting the same motion on the order paper for three years, and this is the first time, to my knowledge, that a member sitting on the government side has moved such a bill, for it is much easier for members of the opposition to have bills placed on the order paper than it is for members on the government side.

I thought it was my duty to say a few words to strongly encourage the house to pass this bill as soon as possible.

It is more than ever advisable that the parliament of Canada recognize official bilingualism in Canada by statute on the grounds of our dearest traditions, as confirmed by the B.N.A. Act and many constitutional statutes.

The purpose of this bill is to have printed in both French and English, cheques, drafts,