

Establishment of Immigration Appeal Board

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: This concerns another clause, Mr. Chairman.

[English]

Amendment (Mr. Pickersgill) agreed to.
Clauses 29 and 30 agreed to.

On clause 31—*Regulations respecting procedure, duties, etc.*

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Chairman, what is the change here?

Mr. Lewis: To take out the words "and appeals".

Mr. Marchand: The purpose of the clause is to extend the provision of the Immigration Act respecting proof of documents arising out of proceedings under the immigration appeal board.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I think the minister is on the wrong clause. I believe the hon. member for York South was correct that all this new clause does is to strike out the words "and appeals".

Mr. Lewis: There is a special appeal tribunal which will make the rules and therefore the board no longer keeps the authority to make rules with regard to appeals. I believe that is all the section does.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 32 to 34 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 1—*Short title.*

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Chairman, I understand the minister intends to stand this clause. If so, I hope he will not inhibit any of his colleagues, in particular the hon. member for Parkdale who is one of his distinguished supporters, who holds the office of parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and who has taken the lead in Montreal today in an attack on this legislation. I hope the minister will feel that the hon. member for Parkdale should have complete freedom of action to open up any of the clauses of the bill in order to try to improve the legislation. It is clear that a considerable number of members on the opposite side are totally dissatisfied with the legislation as it is. I am sure the minister with the flexibility he has shown, will give them ample opportunity to deal with the matter.

• (4:30 p.m.)

Mr. Marchand: We will have to wait to hear what the hon. member for Parkdale has to say.

Mr. Pickersgill: As the senior minister in the house at the present time, notwithstanding the entirely commendable effort of the hon. member for Carleton to suggest there is something appropriate about the procedure we have agreed to adopt and with which I reluctantly agreed, I must say I hope this will never be cited as a precedent. I do not see how our parliamentary system is going to work at all if committees of the house are going to tell the house, or even the committee of the whole, how it should carry on its procedures. Without reflecting in any way upon the committee, because it is sitting and we know we cannot talk about its proceedings, I want to say that I believe all of us agree that parliament is paramount over its own committees. It is not suitable for a committee, no matter how important what it is doing may be, to delay the business of the committee of the whole or of the house. I am not speaking as a member of the government but I am speaking as one of the senior members of this house in point of years if not in point of years of service.

When I say I think the minister was right in accepting the blandishments of the hon. member for Carleton, I would point out also that I do not believe the hon. member for Carleton believes in his heart any more than I do that this is a proper procedure. I think we ought to have it on the record that we do not want this to happen again.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Is the Acting Prime Minister—

Mr. Pickersgill: No, I am not the Acting Prime Minister.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Is the Minister of Transport indicating that the hon. member for Parkdale is in the doghouse?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, sir, I am merely suggesting that at times all of us in this house share in doing things and we do not always think of all their implications when we do them. I do not believe I have ever been very sensitive when my conduct has been criticized. I do not believe I have ever hesitated to apologize to the house when I thought I had done anything that was in any way a reflection upon the house. Therefore I do not