

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 277,

June 9, 1938.

The Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce met at 10 a.m. Mr. W. H. Moore, the Chairman, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, gentlemen; I am informed that we have a quorum. Bill 124, an Act to amend the Copyright Act.—Mr. Martin.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Can we have the bill?

Mr. MARTIN: The bill in its present form will go through the process of considerable amendment insofar as the sponsors are concerned, and I content myself at the outset merely with a statement of what is intended, namely, to give to the Commissioner of Patents, with an ultimate appeal to the Exchequer Court, the right to deal with abuses with respect to the ownership of copyright.

May I say at the outset that there is no intention whatsoever of interfering with literary and artistic work. Those who are interested from that standpoint may be assured that any amendments which they have in mind will be carefully made, because there is no intention of touching that class.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Scott, who is a barrister and solicitor from Montreal, is here, and he has had this matter in hand and I would ask that he be heard in connection with the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Will you make a motion to that effect?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes. I make a motion to that effect.

W. B. SCOTT, K.C., appearing for a group of non-tariff fire insurance companies licensed to do business in Canada, called.

Mr. DUBUC: Mr. Chairman, seeing the importance of this bill and that there are so many members missing from the province of Quebec, I feel like moving the adjournment. This bill is very, very important, and I should think that a great many would be interested in it. I know there is quite a number in Quebec, and, if I am in order, I would ask you to adjourn.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

Mr. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, there are two difficulties in the way. On Tuesday we decided to meet this morning. We knew that this would be an occasion that would take a considerable number of the members of the House away, but there was no intimation that a request for an adjournment would be made this morning. In any event, the evidence will be taken down, and no decision will be reached this morning. Therefore, no one will be prejudiced and, in any event, as the session is drawing to a close, we are anxious to get the matter before us in the House if it is at all possible, and I would ask, having that in mind—

The CHAIRMAN: That we simply take the evidence to-day and have an adjournment at the conclusion of the evidence until next week? Does that meet with general approval?

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: All right.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I quite realize that anything that has to do with adding any additional clauses to the Copyright Act is a