

Private Bills

looked upon as being outside the ambit of second reading of this particular bill.

• (6:10 p.m.)

But it is a crucial and important point because the bill before us is one that is consuming the time of parliament. Whether it is examined scantily or in depth, it is consuming the time of parliament and of its staff because we are dealing with something which should not be here.

We have asked the government house leader to take steps by way of a public bill and bring in an omnibus piece of legislation which will permit groups such as Aetna Insurance Company to become incorporated in the same way as other companies, by going to a lawyer, asking him to do whatever is necessary and filing documents with the companies' branch to obtain letters patent to incorporate the company.

We think that is a much more sensible way to do things. There is relatively little interest in parliament whether Aetna Insurance Company is ever incorporated. Members of parliament have far more important things to consider. On their minds are matters concerning the very social structure of our nation and its economic well-being. They are the things parliament should deal with.

I should like to see this hour devoted to other kinds of business; whether it be government business, the introduction of public bills or the business of the public of Canada generally does not matter. I do not want to see the business of a few private individuals dealt with who are seeking to capitalize on the psychology that exists in Canada that a company incorporated by parliament somehow is better than one incorporated normally.

Whether the capitalization is \$5 million or \$50 million does not matter. Whether the shares are \$50, \$5 or 5 cents does not matter. I am sure it does not matter to the hon. member for High Park. It does not matter to members of our own party who will make up the initial board of directors. It does not matter what their names are, where they live or what are their occupations. Most of the other things in the bill do not matter very much either.

I submit that in this hour we should be seeking ways and means of preventing bills such as this coming before parliament. Public business generally ought to be dealt with. It does not matter whether it is an amendment to the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act or something similar.

[Mr. Howard.]

We do not require this tortuous process of incorporation for most other companies and I do not see why we should require it for insurance companies. Alternatively, we ought to require that all companies in Canada engaged in all sorts of business must be incorporated in this way. You cannot make fish of one and foul of the other. That, I submit, is grossly unfair.

I do not enjoy discussing Aetna Insurance Company. I do not enjoy the prospect that may be before the hon. member for High Park who in good faith is the sponsor of this company. I do not enjoy his having to proceed through this hour without his dream coming to realization, if that is what he wants. I do not enjoy the prospect of having to sit with other members in committee to go into the details of the operation of the company. I am sure there is not a solitary member in the house who enjoys such a prospect. I am sure all of us would much rather spend this period of time dealing with public business and not with the private business of those who want to enter the insurance field under Canadian law.

I hope that some day our words will carry weight with the government and especially with the Minister of Public Works as house leader. We hope he will see it is necessary to bring in a law providing for companies such as this to be incorporated in the same way as other companies.

We may have to persist in consuming the time in each private members' hour by talking on whatever bill happens to be before us. This is a regrettable course to take but we know from experience that often it is the only way to get action by this or any other government we have had in recent years. It is a course that has to be persisted in. We may be obstinate about it and sometimes incur disfavour and dislike among other hon. members who are affected in any way by the filibustering. However, that is not a prospect from which we shrink.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, this bill will receive second reading tonight and be referred to the appropriate committee. Perhaps it will not. In the long run it does not matter whether the bill passes. First, the company is in business and will still be in business and, second, one of these days the government is going to come to its senses and produce a general public law which will, I am sure, receive easy passage through parliament so that companies such as this one will not have to come to parliament in future.