

Crop Insurance Act

Mr. Turner: Mr. Chairman, when speaking on his estimates the President of the Privy Council was asked a question concerning the salary of the executive director, and he replied:

The present estimates provide in the case of the director for a salary scale between \$18,000 and \$22,000, but for this year \$20,000. In the case of the associate director, the salary provided is \$15,000 to \$18,000, but for this year \$15,000.

Subsequently the Canadian Press ran a story to the effect that the interim executive director, Mr. McWhinney, receives a salary of \$20,000 a year. This was very much to his embarrassment because his salary as interim director is \$13,500, while the interim associate director receives a salary of \$9,500. The estimates to which the President of the Privy Council referred were prepared last fall and were therefore tentative. I want to make this clear because of the embarrassment caused.

Clause agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a third time?

Some hon. Members: By leave, now.

Mr. Turner (for Mr. Pearson) moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

• (7:30 p.m.)

CROP INSURANCE ACT**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION, EXTENDING OPERATION, ETC.**

On the order:

Second reading of Bill C-208, an act to amend the Crop Insurance Act—the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I was under the impression that this bill would not be called. The committee on agriculture, forestry and rural development is now meeting. Not only is it unfair, but it is ridiculous to bring forth this legislation while the committee is meeting. Therefore I would ask that this not be proceeded with now. I understand the committee is meeting until 9.30 p.m. and that appearing before it are representatives from western Canada. I think it would be unfair to take up in the house the matter of crop insurance while the committee meeting is going on. I understood the committee had this assurance.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there was not any understanding in this regard, but if the hon. member feels that some of the members who are on the committee wish to speak on this, we would be agreeable to putting it over. I have not, however, had any representations from any members of the committee that they wished to speak on this subject. It was on the order paper and the announcement was made last night that it would be heard today.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe we really can operate parliament, with a committees system, if we are going to have a committee meeting and at the same time take up in the house legislation in respect of which members in committee are engaged. Certainly the minimum requirement should be that the legislation should not be proceeded with in the house while the committee is discussing another aspect of the same field. If we wish to proceed with it, it is all right with me, but I do not think it is very reasonable.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the committee is not sitting at the moment. In any event, surely the committee must not take precedence over the house. However, so that the hon. member will not have any sense of grievance, we will ask to withdraw the right to proceed now with this item, and proceed with the Canada assistance legislation. I am concerned with getting legislation over to the other place quickly. If it should be the wish of the whole house that we proceed with the superannuation legislation first, in the expectation that it would be very brief, we might wish to call it. I am in the hands of the house on that. Of course, it would be on the understanding that the debate on it would be very brief, because last night I did give an intimation that we would proceed with the Canada Assistance Plan late this afternoon.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I think we could be through the superannuation legislation in three quarters of an hour, or possibly less.

Mr. McIlraith: Is that agreeable?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): So far as we are concerned, Mr. Speaker, we can proceed with the superannuation legislation. I believe we will be speaking rather briefly on it. The bill might go through in an hour and a half.