

Retention of Records

(a) by striking out line 11 on page 1 and substituting the following:

"1982 or a later year, and who retires, or whose spouse or parent retires, on or after the day on which this section comes into force, for a month in the"

(b) by striking out line 27 on page 1 and substituting the following:

"retirement year is 1982 or a later year, and who retires, or whose spouse or parent retires, on or after the day on which this section comes into force, for"

That is the motion in possession of the Chair. I hope that is the same as the one in the possession of all hon. members. Therefore, I will now put the question as to whether the amendment is agreed to.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall Clause 1, as amended, carry?

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I think that if you could forget the clock, we could deal very quickly with all stages of Bill C-118. We have a speech of only thirty seconds, and I think the Progressive Conservative Party Whip has a short speech, and in any event, as far as we are concerned, we are willing, provided there is unanimous consent, for you to forget the clock, and in return, we will agree to the period for private members' business lasting the usual hour.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I might indicate to the President of the Privy Council—perhaps he was out of the chamber for a moment a little earlier—when the Chair was advised of that wish on the part of the House, it was agreed that the Chair would not see the clock.

Mr. Nielsen: With that condition.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Yes.

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AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN ACTS THAT PROVIDE FOR THE RETENTION OF RECORDS

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Serge Joyal (for Mr. Johnston) moved that Bill C-118, an Act to amend certain acts that provide for the retention of records be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Mr. Norman Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, briefly, it costs a lot of money to retain records in the business community these days. This bill will set a standard of six years' retention with the opportunity of diminishing that, depending upon the circumstances. We hope this amendment, through the record retentions act will save approximately \$100 million a year in storage

costs. For that reason, we believe it has received unanimous support of all members of the House. Before I sit down, I would like to thank the critics of the opposition parties who were so helpful in expediting the debate this afternoon.

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, I will only be a few moments. We welcome this bill. I am pleased to see that it was brought forward. It will allow businessmen to dispose of a lot of old records. In many cases it will free up valuable space and file capacity.

The only change that I could suggest to the bill which I believe would improve it will be to allow the owners of defunct businesses to turn over their records to the government or a government agency if a businessman dies and his business is wound down. A widow should not be obliged to keep records for six years. Perhaps in the consideration of the implementation of this bill that suggestion could be looked at. I do not think it would be a very difficult problem if the information were broadly disseminated across the country to allow for that provision. Other than that, we welcome the bill. We hope it is the beginning of the several regulatory reforms that we need in the country. We know it will aid the business community, and we thank you very much.

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer the support of our party for Bill C-118. On the one hand, records are certainly necessary but we also know that businesses are often encumbered by a good deal of red tape and problems of storage of records and that kind of thing. If this bill does assist in lessening that burden somewhat, we will be very pleased to support it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Chair will require a motion, as in previous instances, in order to refer the bill to Committee of the Whole.

Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

• (1610)

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, by unanimous consent considered in Committee of the Whole, reported, read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. It being after four o'clock, the House will proceed to the consideration of private members' business, as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, notices of motions, public bills and private bills.

As indicated earlier by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), the House will give a full hour's consideration to private members' business. Hence, it will proceed until approximately 5.12 o'clock. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.