

happening in eastern Europe and in other parts of the world.

I would hope that the act could be amended to provide a closer liaison between the minister and the standing committee.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prolong this debate unnecessarily. I have just two quick comments.

First, the section of the act which exists at the moment does not restrict the minister from filing a report at any time. It does specify that at a minimum she would have to respond within six months following the commencement of each fiscal year. That is the minimum. If we were to specify that any other way, as I think the member is trying to do, we would probably end up limiting possibilities rather than increasing them.

Second, under the present Standing Orders, a committee has a right to examine any number of issues when the ministers are before it on the Estimates or whatever other issue. Therefore, I sincerely believe that this section of the act is the best way to accomplish what the hon. members are after. It does meet all of those goals.

As much as I would like to accommodate them by accepting this amendment, I think that we would be building redundancy into the act by putting in another clause that says the same thing. I believe that the existing wording is probably the better wording for all of our concerns.

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any wish to prolong this either. Perhaps these will be my final comments.

With respect to the Standing Orders giving powers to committee, I repeat that those Standing Orders can be wiped out by a motion, whereas this has greater legislative protection.

Second, with respect to section 119(4) of the Immigration Act, the key operative words, in my humble opinion, are that the report will only be on the preceding fiscal year. The operative words in my amendment would provide for the examination of the use of advances made pursuant to this act, which has a present, a past and a future application.

Government Orders

That is what we wish to strengthen. I do not simply wish to have a report from Parliament or a committee telling me what has happened. I am more concerned in having a debate in the committee with the minister about what is going to happen given the demands, the fiscal arrangements and the program.

I believe there is a difference between what I am proposing in the amendment and what is in the act. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that at the end of the day we will still want to advance this amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: Members have heard the terms of the amendment. Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the amendment?

Some hon. members: On division.

Mr. Cooper: Negatived on division.

Amendment (Mr. Marchi) negatived.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (for the Minister of Employment and Immigration) moved that the bill be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: When shall the bill be read the third time? By leave, now?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Loiselle (for the Minister of Employment and Immigration) moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.