

Northwest Territories Act

Leger	Richard (Ottawa East)
Macdonald (Edmonton East)	Riley
MacKenzie	Rousseau
MacLean (Cape Breton North and Victoria)	St. Laurent
MacNaught	Sinclair
Macnaughton	Sinnott
McCann	Smith (Moose Mountain)
McCubbin	Smith (York North)
McCulloch	Stewart (Winnipeg North)
McCusker	Stick
McIvor	Stuart (Charlotte)
McWilliam	Studer
Major	Thatcher
Mayhew	Valois
Mott	Ward
Murray (Cariboo)	Weaver
Murray (Oxford)	Welbourn
Pearson	Whiteside
Picard	Whitman
Proudfoot	Winkler
Prudham	Winters
	Wood
	Wright—115.

Mr. Black (Chateauguay - Huntingdon - Laprairie): Mr. Speaker, I was paired. Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. Johnston: I was paired with the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Cleaver). Had I voted I would have voted for the amendment.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

116. Departmental administration (including the former administration of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, 1943, and the administration of the Municipal Grants Act, and the custody of paid cheques formerly administered by the auditor general's office, \$1,643,396.

Item stands.

LEGISLATION

The Speaker of the Senate—

208. Allowance in lieu of residence, \$3,000.

Item stands.

Progress reported.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT

AMENDMENT TO REVISE AND CONSOLIDATE, ETC.

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend, revise and consolidate the Northwest Territories Act and inter alia to provide for an increase in the allowance for living expenses of the members of the council when the council is in session; to provide also for the payment of all territorial revenues into the consolidated revenue fund and for the establishment therein of an account to be known as the Northwest Territories revenue account to which shall be credited (a) amounts equal to the territorial revenues paid from time to time into the consolidated revenue fund pursuant to subsection one; (b) all moneys appropriated by parliament to be credited to the Northwest Territories

[Mr. Speaker.]

revenue account; and (c) an amount equal to the amount standing to the credit, at the commencement of this act, of the account then known as the Northwest Territories revenue account; to provide also for the payment, out of the consolidated revenue fund, of money required for the territorial purposes specified in the ordinances of the commissioner in council, all such payments to be charged to the Northwest Territories revenue account; to provide also for the establishment of a territorial court of the Northwest Territories and for the appointment in certain cases of deputy judges thereto; and to provide also that the governor in council may appoint police magistrates in and for the territories and may fix their salaries and allowances; and to provide further that the governor in council may appoint the clerk of the court, sheriff and such other officers as are deemed necessary and fix their salaries and allowances.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): This is rather important legislation to place before the house at this stage. I think we should have a detailed explanation from the Minister of Resources and Development, setting out the justification for it.

Mr. St. Laurent: Mr. Speaker, I have already submitted the argument we had to make on motions of this kind that it would not be proper for the minister proposing such a resolution to deal with the merits of it. There was considerable discussion at that time; but the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) suggested he would like to have some time to consider the objection. It was agreed that another opportunity would be provided; and I think this might be the convenient time to have the argument completed, and then to have Your Honour's opinion on the point raised.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, in the first place may I point out to Your Honour that, should the contention of the Prime Minister be accepted, the result would be to do away with one occasion for debate. I submit that cannot be contradicted. That very fact, in itself, is one good reason why there should be a very clear case for changing the practice of the house by way of a ruling from Your Honour on this point.

It has been admitted by the Prime Minister that this motion is debatable; but he seeks to cut down the debate to such an extent that, in effect, should his contention be accepted, it would not be debatable. I propose to go into the question of the extent to which the motion should be debatable. Also there is one other key fact that should be considered by Your Honour, and that is that there can be a vote on this motion. The Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) nods his head, and I do not think it can be questioned that there can be a vote on this motion. The extent to which the motion can be debated was dealt with very fully by Hon. Mr. Glen in 1942 when he