

Judges Act and Financial Act

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, all motions except No. 4 are acceptable to the government.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. Following the remarks just made by the hon. member, the Chair at this time will put motions Nos. 1 and 5 and call upon members interested to participate in the debate. The minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) moves motion No. 1 as follows:

—That Bill C-243, An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Financial Administration Act, be amended

(a) by striking out line 1 on page 3 and substituting therefor the following:

“(e) Ninety puisne”

(b) by striking out line 30 on page 3 and substituting therefor the following:

“(d) Six other judges of”

(c) by striking out line 26 on page 5 and substituting therefor the following:

“(d) Thirteen Justices of the”

(d) by striking out line 9 on page 6 and substituting therefor the following:

“(b) Ninety-seven judges”

(e) by striking out lines 17 and 18 on page 6 and substituting therefor the following:

“(d) One chief judge of the County Court—27,000.00

(e) Five County Court judges, each—25,000.00”

and relettering paragraphs (e) to (k) as paragraphs (f) to (l), respectively.

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) moves motion No. 5 as follows:

• (2:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

Motion No. 5:

—That Bill C-243, An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Financial Administration Act, be amended

(a) by striking out paragraph (e) of section 9 in Schedule A and substituting therefor the following:

“(e) Ninety puisne judges of the Superior Court, each—30,500.00”

(b) by striking out paragraph (d) of section 11 in Schedule A and substituting therefor the following:

“(d) Six other judges of the Queen's Bench Division, each—30,500.00”

(c) by striking out paragraph (d) of section 16 in Schedule A and substituting therefor the following:

“(d) Thirteen Justices of the Supreme Court of Alberta, each—30,500.00”

(d) by striking out paragraph (b) of section 19 in Schedule A and substituting therefor the following:

“(b) Ninety-seven judges and junior judges of the County and District Courts, each—22,000.00

(e) by striking out paragraph (d) of section 19 in Schedule A and substituting therefor the following:

“(d) One chief judge of the County Court—23,000.00

(e) Five County Court judges, each—22,000.00”

and relettering paragraphs (e) to (k).

[English]

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, these two amendments were approved in committee, but the committee was unable to deal with them because they dealt with the balance of ways and means. The amendments are made necessary by requests from various attor-

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

neys general for additional judges after the bill had received first reading in the House of Commons. The attorney general of Quebec is applying for extra judges of the Superior Court and Court of Queen's bench in the province of Quebec; the attorney general for Alberta is asking for additional judges for the Supreme Court of Alberta; the attorney general of Ontario is asking for additional county court judges for Ontario and the attorney general of New Brunswick is asking for the designation of one of six county court judges as chief judge of the county courts.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I endorse what the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) said in this regard. At the time this matter came before the committee, he properly suggested we could move a recommendation but we could not move an amendment to the act because the changes dealt with ways and means. At the time these changes came before the committee, the Minister of Justice was in Vancouver dealing with constitutional changes, and we had to wait until he returned. The recommendation by the committee was then made. We agreed at the committee level that we would agree to these amendments in the House. I do so now.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity to express some views, as has been done on earlier occasions, about the judiciary, members of it, the court structure and attitudes of the court. Right after this Parliament began, we had a bill to amend the Judges Act to allow for additional appointments and so on. At that time we had a discussion about the method of appointment, the criteria to be followed and the like. I do not wish to go into that aspect at this time.

At that time we also discussed other matters. From the facial expressions and nodding of the minister, I understood that he was generally in agreement with what we were saying about judges and dispensing of justice by the courts. I thought because the minister had at least indicated superficial agreement although no verbal commitment, we would be moving in a different direction as far as the judges and the bench were concerned. I would like to go over that ground again because it is even more valid today than three years ago as a result of the additional judges that are being sought.

The courts have a tremendous amount of additional business to conduct in cases before them. This makes us wonder what is taking place in our judicial system, the operation of courts and the so-called justice they are supposed to be dispensing to the citizens of this country. We must realize that we do not necessarily get justice or truth from a court. The court is not primarily seeking the truth in cases before it, but seeking to accept that which might be credible. Credibility of witnesses and credibility of cases do not always marry completely with truth and justice. With that attitude toward our court system and criminal law, people do not always obtain justice in the courts of this land.

The matter of money is also involved. It has been mentioned in this House by gentlemen who are learned in the law and have appeared before the courts that a rich person appearing before the court receives one type of consideration. A poor person will likely receive another type of justice. In other words, the amount of money