

Private Bills

Mr. Speaker, we always asked that a distinctive national flag be adopted not for the mere pleasure of seeing some bunting on a pole, but to have a distinctive national flag which would mean something to Canada. As the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) said the other day and repeated this afternoon, a flag symbolizing the security of the Canadian people as well as the freedom of all individuals who have built up and live in this Canada of ours.

That is why we want to adopt a distinctive national flag.

Mr. Speaker, may I point out that it is five o'clock?

[Text]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely private bills, public bills.

PRIVATE BILLS**SECOND READING—SENATE BILL**

Bill No. S-30 respecting The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company—Mr. Lachance.

THE CASUALTY COMPANY OF CANADA

Mr. G. C. Lachance (Lafontaine) moved the second reading of Bill No. S-31, respecting The Casualty Company of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

[Translation]

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, Bill No. S-31, is to grant The Casualty Company of Canada the right to use also a French name which is mentioned therein and reads as follows:

La Casualty, Compagnie d'assurance du Canada.

Hon. Théogène Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, could the hon. member tell us how many people make up that company's board of directors, that is the number of Canadians compared to the number of foreigners, for instance, and the number of directors living in the province of Quebec compared to the total number of directors?

[Text]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): I must point out to the house that the hon. member can only answer that question on the understanding by the house that he is not closing the debate.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I take exception to that procedure for the simple reason that [Mr. Caouette.]

if this bill is referred to a committee there will be ample opportunity for any hon. member to ask questions at that time. Furthermore, when the bill comes back from the committee for concurrence in its final stages, particularly in the committee stage, there will be abundant opportunity to ask questions, where interrogation can take place back and forth.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): I have to agree with the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson) that perhaps the proper procedure is for hon. members to ask their questions and then allow the hon. member moving second reading to answer the questions when he winds up the debate on second reading. That might be the better procedure. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, what type of procedure are we following here—with a bill put before the house in this way, no explanation being given by the hon. member sponsoring the bill or anything like that? A question has been asked the hon. member in respect of the bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): I recognize that a question has been asked of the sponsor of the bill, but I do not think he would be permitted to answer this question on second reading unless it were understood that he was not closing the debate. An hon. member who sponsors a bill and speaks for a second time on second reading under our rules closes the debate. When the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard) asked a question I reminded the house that the hon. member for Lafontaine (Mr. Lachance) could only answer the question on the understanding that he was not closing the debate. That permission was not given by the house.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on banking and commerce.

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT**AMENDMENT RESPECTING SERVICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-37, to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1952.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill, Bill No. C-37, is to grant eligibility for