

*Private Bills*

also transfer its business to the company under consideration so that there will be only one company under the name of the Eagle Star Insurance Company of Canada.

The reason for keeping that name is because it is a well known name in the insurance business. It is a business that has been carried on under that name for years. The only other purpose of the bill is to increase the number of shares to allow the one company to carry on the business that was previously carried on by four.

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, with all respect to the direct explanation given by the sponsor of the bill and the relative brevity of the proceedings before the Senate committee on banking and commerce on June 28, there are a couple of aspects of this bill that need a little more exploration. Because of the structure of the company, because of the fact that it falls within that class of companies which is foreign controlled, foreign owned—at least that is my understanding—and the fact that it is one that is exempted from the provisions of the public law relating to Canadian ownership, I think we should not be hasty in giving the bill passage and referral to a committee.

I was reading the proceedings before the banking and commerce committee of the Senate, held on June 28, with reference to this company, and quite frankly I am a bit confused. I think there is obviously a typographical error in the report of the proceedings. I think it is necessary to read a few statements from it in order to point out where the confusion arises.

As recorded at page 29 of the proceedings, Senator Leonard asked Mr. Humphrys, the superintendent of insurance, the following question:

Mr. Humphrys, what happens to the British Eagle Star in Canada?

Mr. Humphrys: Its insurance will be either allowed to run out and be re-written as it comes up for renewal, in this company, or there will be a portfolio transfer where this company will take over the policies which have been written by the Eagle Star.

Then comes this important question by Senator Leonard:

The Canadian people will not be offered an opportunity to insure in either a British company or a Canadian company by the name of Eagle Star?

Mr. Humphrys: No. My understanding is that the activities of this group in Canada will be channeled through this company alone.

I do not know whether Mr. Humphrys was saying no to the negative sense in which the

[Mr. Allmand.]

question was posed, in other words saying no to the proposition that the Canadian people will not be offered an opportunity to insure in either a British or Canadian company, or saying no and meaning that they cannot insure through a British company by the name of Eagle Star.

I say that because the bill seeks to change the name of British Northwestern Insurance Company simply to Eagle Star Insurance Company of Canada, and in the French version Eagle Star Compagnie d'Assurance du Canada. Either the Senate committee printed proceedings in this respect must contain a typographical error, or the question was posed in an incorrect way by Senator Leonard, because the reading of the proceedings would lead one to believe it is not possible to have any insurance through a British or Canadian company called Eagle Star once this bill receives passage.

The other aspect of the bill is the one I mentioned earlier, namely that it is not a Canadian company at the moment, and the public declarations of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Gordon), and others on the government side indicate that it is government policy to have companies achieve and maintain a Canadian identity. Because there is no procedure at the moment for this to happen with respect to this company, except the procedure followed in the precedent set by the Mercantile bank group, and another investment company bill which passed through the house this year, I do not think we should give second reading to this bill until some of these assurances can be provided.

**Mr. Allmand:** For the information of the hon. member this company is a Canadian company, originally incorporated in Manitoba in 1906, and subsequently incorporated under chapter 70 of the statutes of 1910. The original company, Eagle Star, was a British company.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, I think you should note what is being permitted here. It is difficult to have two hon. members proceed at the same time. If the hon. member wants to ask a question and incorporate this in his question I shall be very glad to allow him the opportunity, but it being seven o'clock I think it might be better to wait for another day.