

Private Bills

the solicitor for the plaintiff without consultation with the solicitor who had originally entered the notice of objection. I understood that the particular solicitor has not yet been consulted on this matter. I am wondering if he appeared before the committee or if the committee interviewed him or ascertained his position on that matter?

Mr. Wahn: The committee did not interview him, Mr. Chairman, or communicate with him directly. It is possible that someone in the committees branch may have done so, but it is the right of any citizen to dispense with the services of his solicitor. My recollection is that it appeared from the record this particular solicitor was no longer representing the husband in the case, and for that reason we thought there was no necessity for the committee interviewing the solicitor in question personally.

Mr. Scott: In view of what the sponsor has said, that he has investigated the situation and is satisfied that the bill is in order, I will not raise any further objection.

Clause agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read a third time?

Some hon. Members: Now.

Mr. Wahn moved the third reading of the bill.

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

ALLSTATE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
OF CANADA

The house resumed, from Thursday, August 1, consideration of a motion of Mr. Ryan for the second reading of Bill No. S-28, to incorporate Allstate Life Insurance Company of Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, once again we are dealing with a bill which the house finds to its liking since it has been put before us several times already and will come back to us again. I refer to the bill designed to incorporate the Allstate Life Insurance Company of Canada, an American insurance company which is 87½ per cent American-owned and only 12½ per cent Canadian-owned. That means, as we have often said in this chamber, that such a company will return to the charge and that another company will establish itself in our country, when we have no need for it.

[Mr. Scott.]

And now, Mr. Speaker, since we are discussing that bill once again, there is one point I should like to clear up. The first time the measure was put forward here, we were against it. Now, during a televised press conference held recently, the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Marcoux) stated that a representative of the Allstate Insurance Company had come to meet the member for Lapointe and that, as soon as the meeting was over, the member for Lapointe no longer wished to oppose the bill and had said: we shall let the bill pass.

In my opinion, such a statement was but an insinuation to give the impression that the member for Lapointe had agreed to let the bill pass because he had been approached by a representative of the Allstate company.

As I mentioned a moment ago, that statement was made at a press conference which was televised from 8 o'clock to 8.30 not so long ago.

I think it is quite in order, in view of the fact that a similar accusation has been made against another member, that I should have the right to put the record straight, which will take me only a minute or two at the most.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that I met an official of the Allstate company, but that was because the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) expressly asked me to. Moreover, the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson) was present at the meeting with the representative from the Allstate company.

Mr. G. C. Lachance (Lafontaine): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. If the hon. member—

Mr. Gregoire: If insinuations have been made about me, the member for Medicine Hat will be able—

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. If the hon. member for Lapointe wants to rise on a question of privilege about a statement that was made by another member, I am of the opinion that he should do so before the committee on privileges and elections and should not take advantage of the fact that the bill is now being studied by the house to discuss the matter.

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I feel there is no need to make it a question of privilege because I wanted at the same time to deal with the bill and explain what our position will be with regard to the measure under consideration. And, right now, I am of the opinion that the debate is quite in order.

Besides, I was through explaining that point and I was going to deal with another matter.