On motion of Hon. Mr. Cook, bill referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION

BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN ACTS—SECOND READING

Hon. John J. Connolly: I have asked the honourable Senator Cook to move second reading of this bill.

Hon. Eric Cook moved the second reading of Bill C-97, to amend certain acts respecting the superannuation of persons employed in the Public Service, members of the Canadian Forces and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

He said: Honourable senators, Bill C-97 deals with the second item in the supplementary estimates to which I made reference a few moments ago in speaking on Bill C-96. The second $1 vote was Vote 18d under the heading of Government administration. In this case also there was no objection to the purpose of the vote, and accordingly Bill C-97 was also passed in the other place without debate and without division.

Bill C-97 amends three acts, all of which deal with the superannuation accounts of (i) the Public Service, (ii) the Canadian Forces, and (iii) the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

As I understand the provisions of the bill, no new pension rights are conferred, but the bill is required to give effect to the Government's policy to amortize new deficiencies in the various superannuation accounts by crediting the amount of the deficiency as a deferred charge and amortizing it over a five-year period commencing with the year in which the amount of the deficiency becomes known.

Section 4 is, I understand, for the purpose of correcting some injustices which may have arisen in a few cases where civil servants received erroneous advice regarding the contributions which they were obliged to make, and the Governor in Council is now empowered to make regulations to adjust any such injustice.

Section 5 is to give effect to a decision by the Treasury Board that the staff of the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers should be brought under the Public Service Superannuation Act, provided that the Council pays the employer's share of the current contributions required under that Act.

The Council has subsequently requested that parallel action be taken to make the Government Employees Compensation Act and the Flying Accidents Compensation Order apply to members of its staff. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of section 5 are for that purpose.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read a third time?

Hon. Mr. Cook: Honourable senators, unless any honourable senator wishes to refer the bill to committee, I would move that it be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: This bill is somewhat similar to the one we have just considered; it too arises from the supplementary estimates. We have no cause to hurry at the present moment—we are not about to adjourn or anything of that kind—and I can see no reason why the bill should not be referred to a committee. I would like to hear a further explanation of it by the officials in charge. Offhand, it seems to me it is a most necessary bill and that what seem to be injustices in connection with the Superannuation Act should be corrected, but I see no reason for not referring it to committee.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Cook, bill referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

PRIVATE BILLS

THE ALGOMA CENTRAL AND HUDSON BAY RAILWAY COMPANY—SECOND READING

Hon. T. D'Arcy Leonard moved the second reading of Bill S-4, respecting The Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway Company.

He said: Honourable senators, The Algoma Central Railway has had two bills before us in recent years. In 1958 Parliament ratified a scheme of arrangement reorganizing the capital structure of the company, consequent upon many years of rather troubled and difficult financial conditions. That reorganization proved successful, and in 1960 Parliament passed a further act completing the changeover from control by the bondholders of the company, which control had been in effect for something like 40 years, making effective the control by the shareholders of