

Motions

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to agree with the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). That certainly is possible. In fact, we do not really know what happened between January 1 and January 17. We do not know how many people applied. We do not know what treatment they were given. We do not know how many applications were rejected as the Department has indicated that it does not have that information, something which is rather surprising.

No statement was made by the Minister prior to December 31, 1984, indicating that the time would be extended. In fact, during the time between January 1 and January 17, 1985, the Minister made no statement indicating that the time was to be extended. We do not know whether or not those in the Department took it upon themselves to treat applications that came in between January 1 and January 17 in their own fashion without passing them along, because we do not have any records.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I have a comment to make. I disagree with my hon. friend. I say yes, the two people would receive the same amount. I might say that anyone who signed a contract after January 1 was well informed all the way along as to what was happening with the program.

Mr. Waddell: Not by Order in Council, not by *Gazette* and not by law.

• (1230)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I appreciate that Hon. Members are having a little question and comment period between themselves. If they would like to do that behind the curtains that would be fine, but questions at this point should be directed to the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan).

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I thought I was doing pretty well in that I was being interrupted by my friend from Vancouver. I am making a comment at this point; I am not asking a question. As I was saying, the Canadian public was very well informed. Obviously they were well informed because of the huge number of applications which came into the Department before December 31. Those who made application after December 31 knew full well that they were applying under the 33-1/3 per cent grant. However, because the regulations were not passed, the Department honoured the 60 per cent grant for those people who applied in that time period. It was a very fair way to treat the Canadian public, and that is the way it happened.

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—North Delta): Mr. Speaker, one of the benefits of having been here a while is that the Speaker learns the name of one's riding.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I have no difficulty with "Surrey—White Rock—North Delta". I would hope, after the next election, that it would have one or two names like Surrey—White Rock.

Mr. Friesen: I would not want you, Sir, to leave out one of the areas of my good constituency. Another benefit of having been here a while is that one develops a memory for past events. I am now taking some pleasure in an ironic sense of justice, the wheels having turned full circle. We are not dealing with only the matter of CHIP. We are really dealing with the whole subject of delegated legislation and the procedures followed by the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments.

When I was sitting in the Opposition, an Order in Council passed by the previous Government consumed much of my attention and quite a bit of my energy. It was known as the emergency planning orders. The Hon. Member who tabled this report should not walk out because my remarks will be of interest to him. I see that I have peaked his attention, at least.

Mr. Kaplan: Yes.

Mr. Friesen: The particular emergency planning order never enjoyed the benefit of news releases, as did this particular Order in Council. This one had at least two, three or four news releases which anticipated the new regulations that would be adopted later by the Government. The emergency planning order did not enjoy any flare of publicity. It was just gazetted, and some very sharp Canadian somewhere noticed it and gave some prominence to it.

Mr. Robinson: It is still on the books today.

Mr. Friesen: I hear the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson). I think he has become sloppy in his attention to House business. He knows very well that the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Andre) is revamping that entire matter, including the War Measures Act. He should not get too anxious.

I remember asking the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) when he was Solicitor General about the particular Order in Council which empowered the Government to empty penitentiaries in order to fill them with political prisoners, or at least make room for political prisoners, and he said: "Obviously there are a few problems with this particular Order in Council".

Now it so happens—and this is where the justice comes in—that the Hon. Member for York Centre is a co-chairman of the committee which is examining delegated legislation, Orders in Council. I think it is perfect that the Hon. Member for York Centre, who ran a little roughshod over some Government procedures in that process, would now have to chair the committee which examines delegated legislation. I agree with the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) who said a few minutes ago that the committee was not only very important but essential if we want to preserve democracy and freedom in our land.

When I sat on the parliamentary reform committee I had two main concerns. One of them was my concern for delegated