

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

house in committee of the whole on Bill No. C-111, an act to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act; then, item No. 6 on today's order paper, second reading of Bill No. C-110, an act to amend the Farm Credit Act; then, item No. 8 on today's order paper, second reading of Bill No. C-113, an act to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

CORPORATIONS AND LABOUR UNIONS RETURNS ACT—ALLEGED DELAY IN SUBMISSION OF RETURNS BY CORPORATIONS

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, the other day when I brought a question before this house concerning the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, it was suggested that I put the question on the order paper, and for this reason I am suggesting the subject be considered tonight. This act was passed in 1962 after a considerable amount of debate. Upon reviewing *Hansard*, I find a considerable amount of debate again took place on this subject in 1965 when amendments to the act were introduced. My reason for bringing this question before the house is that it is my opinion there is absolutely no use in this house passing legislation if there is no enforcement of that legislation. I suggest that unless there is a good reason for the lack of enforcement of the provisions of any act, then those provisions should be enforced.

The purpose of this act was to have corporations and unions file annual returns. The other day I requested a report under the provisions of this act in so far as corporations and unions were concerned, and I was told that

—the preparation of the data for the corporation report has been delayed but improvements are being made and it is our objective to be more timely in the near future.

The only return that I received from the corporation was for 1963, while I received a return from the unions for every year including 1966.

I should like to ask the minister responsible for answering this question this evening for an explanation of why the returns from the corporations are not available. Unless there is an adequate reason for the lack of such

[Mr. McIlraith.]

returns in 1963. I should like to know whether the corporations are liable for the penalty outlined in section 6 of the act. If they are not liable, why not?

If the returns outlined in the report are not liable for return by the corporations, I should like to know whether there is any reason for the unions to file a return, as such, each year. If they do not file a return, are they responsible under section 6 of the act?

I noticed in *Hansard* that in September 1964 the then member for Port Arthur said it was obvious that the government was not enthusiastic about the bill as a whole, and that he assumed the legislation was going to waste away. I only ask that if it is the intention of the government to let this legislation waste away, then why do they not tell us, instead of leaving the act unfulfilled?

I would ask the minister to answer this question at this time, Mr. Speaker, because I believe it is of the utmost importance, particularly for myself, to know whether or not the act means what it says, and should be enforced in its entirety.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad indeed to rise to answer the question of the hon. member for Moose Jaw. Let me say at the outset that it is certainly not the intention of this government to let this legislation waste away. If there has been—as there has—some difficulty in the beginnings in carrying out the spirit of the legislation in full, it is partly due to the fact that the broadest interpretation possible has been put upon it.

I should like to say to the hon. member that the returns have in fact been made on time, but that the difficulty has been in compiling, investigating and reporting upon the data concerned. The differentiation between union and corporation reports is due to the difficulty of dealing with two groups of reports. There are in fact 175 unions which are required to report under the terms of the act, whereas there are 40,000 corporations.

In addition, part of the investigation into corporation returns is in its nature difficult. As I have said, at the moment the corporations are not in default in filing returns and the 1967 returns are on hand. To show the difficulty involved, however, of these 25,000 returns have been fully processed and, I may say, are available for inspection, as are the previous returns, in the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, which is the proper place at this stage. Some 12,000 further returns are in process of examination