

Adjournment Motion

the order paper, there should be an understanding that if it should come to a vote the Chair would reserve and delay such vote until there was a royal recommendation which would meet the obligations and requests of Standing Order 62, or make a definite decision at that time.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, if you are asking for agreement on two counts I should like to say a word first concerning the request that Bill C-234 be considered in this hour despite the fact that that would mean jumping it over several others. We certainly are prepared to go along with that.

On the question of whether or not the bill is in order, I do not know whether I am about to refer to something to which Your Honour referred a moment ago when I was looking up something else, but I should like to point out that there is on the order paper, in the name of the government, Bill C-3 which would do the same thing that is proposed by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). Of course Bill C-3, in the name of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp), does have attached to it the royal recommendation.

It would seem to me that, if the royal recommendation is required for the government to propose senators for the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the same obligation should rest on a private member. However, although I am opposed to senators I am not opposed to the House spending the hour debating this bill if that should be the wish, but it would be on the understanding that if the debate were to end, and a vote called, at that point there would have to be a ruling from the Chair as to whether or not the bill is in order.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to speak on the procedural point raised by the Chair at this time. I believe we are prepared to go along with the suggestion that the debate proceed and, should the debate come to an end, that sufficient opportunity be given to members at that time to make their submissions on the procedural point raised by the Chair before any ruling is made concerning the bill. In this way we could save time by not becoming involved in the procedural matter.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the arrangements are satisfactory to us. As the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) pointed out, there is on the order paper in the name of the President of the Privy Council Bill C-3 which deals effectively with the same thing. I believe it would be the will of the government, if the House should show a disposition to come to a decision in respect of Bill C-234, to provide the royal recommendation if it should be necessary, in order to allow it to come to a decision. From the point of view of the government I should point out that it really does not matter whether this end is accomplished by way of a private member's bill or by way of a government bill. It is the end that the government devoutly desires.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As there seems to be complete understanding and agreement, the Chair will call the order and we will proceed with the debate. Perhaps I should say this is the second time the present occupant of the Chair has been faced with the same situation where there has been agreement to debate a bill in respect of

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

which there was some procedural reservation. Again today, the Chair felt that it was unfair to take away from the time provided for such an important debate. It might be that the Chair and its advisers should look at the problem of making decisions upon the procedural acceptability of bills a longer time in advance, so that we do not lose time in reaching procedural decisions on bills on which there has already been agreement for debate. Is it agreed that we proceed to the consideration of Bill C-234?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE SENATE REPRESENTATION FOR YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon) moved that Bill C-234, to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1965 (Yukon and Northwest Territories Senate Representation), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I shall be very brief in view of the position taken by the government. I might, on behalf not only of the people of the Yukon Territory but of the Northwest Territories as well, express my gratitude to the government, a thing I very seldom do, for its farsightedness in this case. I would hope I could do the same thing in respect to the party to my left which is represented in this House by the hon. member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth) concerning matters in the north.

This is a bicameral system we have in our country. Whether or not my hon. friend for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) agrees that there should be Senators, and we all know his position in that regard, surely it is unfair that all parts of Canada except the two northern territories should be fully represented in the bicameral parliament of this country. It is unfair to leave out the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, and by opposing this bill that is precisely what we would be doing.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Perhaps that would be the fairest thing we could do for the north.

Mr. Nielsen: No, it is not. We want full representation. The Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories want Senate representation. It may well be that when the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) brings forward his bill to abolish the Senate he may find me on his side, because I share a great many of his views in respect of the other place. However, while we have this system we, as Canadian citizens in the north, are just as entitled to be represented in parliament as is any other province. That is all this bill seeks to do, and it is all that Bill C-3, the government bill, seeks to do.