

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: I was about to make a brief explanation of the principal ones.

Hon. Mr. MacLENNAN: A running commentary on important amendments does not register with me at all. Perhaps for a good many senators who are more acute of hearing than I am that would be sufficient, but I must say that reports from important committees are mumbled in the house, and running commentaries on amendments are also mumbled. A number of members—I am not the only one—do not know the first thing about these amendments.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MacLENNAN: I really object to this idea of a committee of the intelligentsia being the only ones who know about important amendments that are made.

Hon. Mr. DUPUIS: Honourable senators, I concur in what has just been said by the honourable gentleman from Margaree Forks (Hon. Mr. MacLennan). We are a body of responsible people, the highest court of the land, the judges of legislation coming from the House of Commons, and I say that before we approve or disapprove of anything it is our duty to know what it is. As I am not a member of the Banking and Commerce Committee I was not at its meetings. May I suggest that this bill stand until the amendments are printed? The printing would probably be done by tomorrow, and the bill could be dealt with then just as well as today. In accordance with the principle of responsible government I humbly suggest that the bill stand until tomorrow.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable senators will recall that a few days ago the house passed a motion proposed by the honourable the leader, that the rule requiring notice for the different stages of bills be suspended in so far as government bills were concerned. The present motion for concurrence in the committee's amendments to this bill is therefore in order.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: In view of what has just been said by two honourable members, I am perfectly willing that the amendments be read, or at least the important ones. There is no desire on my part nor, I am sure, on the part of the leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson), to withhold from the house any information relating to these important amendments.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I second the proposal to defer concurrence.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I have no desire whatever to take refuge behind the motion passed a few days ago, whereby we decided to dispense with the customary notice before proceeding with the different stages of government bills. It seems to me—and I must say this even though the majority think differently—that we owe a certain obligation to the senators who for one reason or another did not attend the meetings of the committee, and I would feel better about it if one of two things were done—or perhaps both; namely, that the Clerk read the amendments and that the Honourable the Acting Chairman of the Committee (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) explain them. In my opinion the amendments should be read, so that all honourable senators will know just what they are; and secondly, they should be explained briefly for the benefit of those who were not at the committee. I do not think that even a majority of the house could reasonably and fairly deny to senators who were not at the committee the right to have the amendments read and explained.

The First Clerk Assistant thereupon read the amendments, as follows:

1. Page 3, line 5: Leave out "a written".
2. Page 4, line 6: For "Board" substitute "Governor in Council".
3. Page 6, lines 36 and 37: For "the House of Commons" substitute "Parliament".
4. Page 7, line 15: For "A member" substitute "The members".
5. Page 7, lines 19 to 22; both inclusive: For subclause (4) of clause 11 substitute the following:—

"(4) The Governor in Council may at any time and from time to time appoint an alternate to act in the place and stead of any member of the Board and the alternate shall have the same powers when so acting as the member."
6. Page 8, line 7: Leave out "and to control".
7. Page 8, lines 9 and 10: Leave out "to control exports of property by mail and".
8. Page 8, line 13: For "Board" substitute "Governor in Council".
9. Page 8, line 16: For "it" substitute "he".
10. Pages 10 and 11: For clause 22(1) substitute the following:—

"22(1) Every resident, other than an authorized dealer, who has or acquires the ownership or possession of foreign currency or is or becomes entitled to a right to payment of foreign currency under a negotiable instrument payable either on demand or otherwise immediately payable, or by reason of a deposit, shall forthwith declare to an authorized dealer that he owns or possesses the said currency or is entitled to the said right, provided that this subsection shall not apply in respect of

 - (a) foreign currency having a value not exceeding one hundred dollars in the ownership or possession of a resident, unless otherwise required by regulation; or
 - (b) foreign currency or any right to payment thereof acquired or held by a resident