

parliament is consulted before an order in council is passed. But he suggests they have a meaning if the order in council can be passed giving the money to the companies, with parliament then asked to approve something already accomplished. In other words parliament is to be asked to lock the barn door after the horse is stolen. I believe that the minister's own statement more than justifies the discussion this afternoon and last evening in opposition to this blank cheque legislation. I say "blank cheque" because, while it is a limited cheque, there is no limit to the number of companies that may get this limited cheque, or on the number of years during which that cheque may be issued.

In the amendment which was moved before the bill came out of committee the minister said he was making this act apply to one company; that they could not make it apply to any others, but they could make it apply to any company by order in council at any time they saw fit to do so. In view of these very revealing statements by the minister, Mr. Speaker, I believe the present amendment is entirely justified.

Mr. HOWE: I should like to argue the point as to whether this is a blank cheque. If my hon. friend would like to know how blank cheque legislation reads let me read—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister has a perfect right to answer a question, but if it is not a question he may not speak a second time.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, this is the end product of what I referred to last evening. During yesterday's debate most of the hon. gentlemen to my right who spoke to this measure referred to the few remarks I made the previous evenings. Of course I feel greatly flattered that what I said should have so much significance, but as a matter of fact I did not say at all what my hon. friends have suggested I did. We are supporting this bill, not because it represents socialism or is a step in that direction. I am not going to discuss that aspect now, but I want to submit that in my opinion the amendment is out of order. I would refer to citation 344 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, third edition, at page 136:

It is an imperative rule that every amendment must be relevant to the question on which the amendment is proposed. Every amendment proposed to be made either to a question or to a proposed amendment should be so framed that if agreed to by the house the question or amendment as amended would be intelligible and consistent with itself.

I submit, sir, that this amendment is not intelligible or consistent with itself. The leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) moved the amendment and then explained it; but what he said in explanation is not what the house has before it. It has what appears in the written amendment, and it contains these words:

That Bill No. 155 be not now read a third time but that it be referred back to committee so as to be amended as follows:

1. That the word "unappropriated" in the third line of paragraph (a) of section 4 of the said act be deleted and the word "appropriated" be substituted in its place.

Then it goes on through the other sections, proposing a similar change. The point I wish to make is that if the money has already been appropriated it cannot be appropriated a second time. Consequently I submit that the amendment is out of order.

Mr. GRAYDON: Good team work.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the point of order, I rule that the amendment is in order. My belief is that the point raised by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) is more one of procedure. Is the house ready for the question?

The house divided on the amendment (Mr. Bracken) which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Aylesworth	Jackman
Barrett	Jagues
Black (Yukon)	Johnston
Blackmore	Kidd
Blair	Kuhl
Brooks	Lockhart
Case	Low
Charlton	McGregor
Church	McMaster
Daniel	MacNicol
Diefenbaker	Marshall
Dorion	Menary
Drope	Merritt
Fair	Murphy
Ferguson	Pearkes
Fleming	Rowe
Fraser	Senn
Fulton	Sinnott
Graydon	Skeve
Green	Stephenson
Hackett	Stirling
Harkness	Tustin
Hatfield	Webb
Hazen	White (Hastings-
Henderson	Peterborough)—50.
Homuth	

NAYS

Messrs:

Abbott	Baker
Archibald	Beaudoin
Argue	Belzile
Arsenault	Benidickson