

AERONAUTICS ACT

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-153, to amend the Aeronautics Act—Mr. Pickersgill—Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

● (7:00 p.m.)

Mr. Turner moved the third reading of the bill.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, an amendment has been incorporated in the bill, and I think it is usual when that happens that it should not be read a third time straight away, unless there is something urgent about it.

Motion stands.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROVISION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL AREAS

Hon. John N. Turner (for the Minister of Forestry) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-152, to amend the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act.

Mr. W. H. Jorgenson (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the government would have provided the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauvé) to make an opening statement.

Mr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, I understand the minister is on his way down. We did not anticipate the immediate co-operation we got on the last measure. If hon. members wish to speak on second reading I can guarantee that the minister will be in his place.

Mr. Jorgenson: It would have been helpful if the minister had been here to make a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Perhaps we might pause for a moment until the minister comes down.

Mr. Turner: Mr. Speaker, at the time the resolution preceding the bill was introduced a full statement was made by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud), on behalf of the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauvé) who was then recovering from pneumonia, and if hon. members direct their attention to the declaration made at that time they would be able to gather the general import of the bill. Perhaps if hon. members are willing to speak on the bill until the minister arrives we can expedite

Rural Development

the business of the house. Meantime I ask the indulgence of the house.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, can we have some information as to the time we may have to wait? It seems that the government is in a hurry to get working but we cannot work without the necessary implements.

Mr. Turner: In any event I understand the minister was not planning to make a statement at the beginning and preferred to make a concluding statement in which he would give consideration to the points raised by hon. members in the debate.

Mr. Jorgenson: I find this a rather unusual situation. It is understandable that the minister was ill when the resolution was introduced. We accept that. We find no quarrel with the fact that he was unable to be here then and had some other minister move the resolution for him. But since he is the minister responsible, I am sure the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Turner) recognizes it is quite customary, on second reading, for such a minister to make a statement, outlining in greater detail the proposals contained in a particular bill. But if the minister is not to be found, and the government finds itself in its usual bind—it is not unusual to have confusion on the other side and this evening is a typical example of the organization within the Liberal party—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I should bring to the attention of hon. members that we have a bill before the house and I would invite them to participate in discussion of the bill.

Mr. Jorgenson: This I propose to do, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure you recognize it would have been very helpful to have the minister make an opening statement so that my remarks could be based on it.

However, since the minister is not here I shall go ahead in order to expedite the business of the house. We can only go by the statement that was made by the Minister of Fisheries when introducing the legislation, and by the contents of the bill, which are self-explanatory. I am glad to see that the minister and the government have come to recognize the value of this legislation. I recall that at the time of second reading of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act in 1961 the then minister of agriculture was also absent, and it fell upon me as his parliamentary secretary to make the opening statement on that occasion.