

not in any way connected with the government. Some are railway property, in respect of which it is not customary to give information of this kind. It is doubtful whether such information should be given as to harbour leases. I submit that the hon. member should either reword the motion or drop it, preferably the latter.

Mr. BOULANGER: I should be content with copies of leases granted by the former harbour commission on wharves belonging to the harbour commission. May I say further that I should be satisfied with abstracts of leases, showing the names of the parties, the consideration, length of term of lease, and so on.

Mr. HOWE: If the hon. member will recast the motion in that way, I can see no objection to it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Carried, with that reservation.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

PROPOSED AMENDMENT RELATING TO TAXATION AND GUARANTEE OF PROVINCIAL DEBTS

On the notice of motion of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) for an address to His Majesty the King praying that a measure be submitted to the parliament of Great Britain and Ireland to amend the British North America Act with respect to taxation and guarantee of provincial debts:

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, last night the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) objected to our proceeding to-day because some correspondence referring to the matter had not been tabled. I have looked into the matter—

Mr. CHURCH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order, as to whether this resolution is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. CHURCH: I wish to speak to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order; I ask the hon. member to sit down. The Minister of Justice has the floor.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): There is some little correspondence in the Department of Justice, which will be tabled this afternoon. Then there is some with the Department of Finance, and it will be laid on the table at the same time.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (St. Lawrence-St. George): There was evidently some misunderstanding last night at adjournment. I

referred particularly to correspondence dealing with the authorization to provinces to impose indirect taxation in certain instances. The misunderstanding was partly due to an incident which occurred during the unavoidable absence of the Minister of Justice from this chamber. On April 1 the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) read into Hansard the correspondence between himself and the government of the province of Alberta. Then, on May 1, in his budget address he stated:

I may add that after the most careful consideration we are prepared to recommend certain modifications to the loan council arrangement originally suggested.

Then the Minister of Finance proceeded to say:

I might advise the house that the modification to which I have just referred is being communicated to all the provinces, particularly those primarily concerned, and of course will have their consideration, and we shall hear from them with respect to it before very long.

It is this correspondence, which has not yet been laid upon the table of the house, to which I also particularly referred last night.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): The correspondence mentioned by the hon. member does not relate to the subject matter of the resolution. It is with regard to the details and particulars under which a loan council in Canada would be established, and the advantage which would be taken of the authority which the parliament of Canada would receive to guarantee loans made by provinces, and the taking of security on account of those guarantees. It is rather in relation to the legislation which will be submitted to parliament once the amendment to the British North America Act is enacted. I do not think it has relation to the subject matter of the address itself.

Mr. CAHAN: I find it almost impossible to understand clearly the purport of the amendment proposed to the British North America Act dealing with matters relating to the proposed loan council. I thought possibly the correspondence might clarify the intention of those who drafted the proposed address.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): If there is no objection, I should be pleased to table the whole thing.

Mr. BENNETT: As long as we get it sooner or later.

Motion stands.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) a question. In addition to bringing down the correspondence