

United Kingdom Financing, 1953

Mr. Winters thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 102, to promote the construction of new houses, the repair and modernization of existing houses, and the improvement of housing and living conditions.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Government House, Ottawa,
December 16, 1953.

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber tonight at 10.15 p.m., for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. Delaute
Secretary to the Governor General
(Administrative)

UNITED KINGDOM FINANCING, 1953**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT RESPECTING PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF LOANS**

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of Bill No. 78, to approve the financial agreement between the government of Canada and the government of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would point out that it is ten o'clock and, second, I wish to know if the minister is going to make a statement.

Mr. Abbott: Perhaps we might not look at the clock for a few moments. I have very little to add to what I said at the resolution stage, at the time the bill was introduced. The purpose of the bill is to approve an agreement entered into between the government of the United Kingdom and the government of Canada, subject to ratification by parliament, which in essence provides that \$150 million, the amount remaining of the \$700 million interest-free loan made in 1942, after the payment of \$38 million last August, should be extended for a five-year period, and be payable in quarterly instalments.

That, in essence, is the purpose of the bill. When we were in the resolution stage the hon. member for Greenwood asked me certain questions, and I shall be able to give him the information when we are in committee on the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Is the motion agreed to?

[Mr. Blackmore.]

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I would ask to be allowed to adjourn the debate, because I have some remarks I should like to make. I understand that in a very few moments we have to go to the Senate chamber. It is now ten o'clock and, unless there is some matter of convenience against it—and I am always a very obliging person, as the leader of the house knows—I should like to move that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. Harris: I am sure we all agree that the hon. member for Greenwood is a most obliging member, and I have no doubt he will be on this occasion. However, as the house knows, it happens that the Minister of Finance will be absent throughout the whole of the next month. I had thought it desirable that this bill be dealt with before he left, particularly as we have some time available. It seems to me that there was fairly complete discussion at an earlier stage of this bill. Therefore I think the hon. member for Greenwood, who is very well informed on this subject, can probably discuss it learnedly and wisely on behalf of his party in the next 14 minutes, and we might be able to dispose of it before we go to the other place.

Mr. Harkness: On a point of order, before we proceed with this may I ask the leader of the house to tell us how many other bills, resolutions, motions or anything else the government propose to bring up tonight before we adjourn for the Christmas recess?

Mr. Harris: As soon as we have returned from the other place, Mr. Speaker, I shall place before the house a motion which will permit the filing of petitions during the recess and then a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly where my motion stands now.

Mr. Harkness: In jeopardy.

Mr. Macdonnell: You have not given a ruling yet, and the leader of the house has said that I am always ready to accommodate. Therefore I move that the debate be adjourned until we come back from the Senate.

Mr. Abbott: May I appeal to my hon. friend. It is true that I am taking it for granted that most hon. members, if not all, are in agreement that we should confirm this arrangement for the payment of this loan. I have no doubt that my hon. friend may wish to discuss matters which could be quite relevant in connection with this bill. I have an idea as to what some of those matters are. I am sure he will agree with me that there will be ample opportunities in the course of this session to discuss them.