

Motion for Adjournment

Mr. Cowan: I sincerely trust that hon. members have enjoyed their light laughter, because before I am through I want to inquire whether the government is under the influence of two members of this house who are law partners of a lawyer involved in this illegal filling in of Lake Ontario or whether the government is acting on its own. I have been pushed around for two and a half years on this matter and I will not take any more. I will name them before I am through.

With regard to this adjournment motion I have in my hand—and I am sure that the Department of Public Works has not even seen it yet—a decision of the Ontario Municipal Board which was brought down on Tuesday, June 27, with regard to an application by the borough of Etobicoke for the zoning of Lake Ontario out to the international boundary, which is Etobicoke's southern limit.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I cannot admit or accept that we have now reverted to a grievance period. Obviously this is what some hon. members seem to think. They seem to think that hon. members may take up any grievance, justified or otherwise, which they may have against the government or against the administration, and discuss it thoroughly in connection with the motion before the house. I feel that there must be some relation between the matters raised by hon. members and the motion before the house, which is a motion for adjournment. I assume that the hon. member for York-Humber will wish to establish this relationship because, otherwise I think we shall be severely infringing against the rule of relevancy.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Speaker, I wish to read the decision of the Ontario Municipal Board which will show you how relevant this matter is to the motion for adjournment, and perhaps you will allow me to read the second and third paragraphs of this decision. The house has before it a motion to adjourn until September 25. This decision was given by the Ontario Municipal Board on Tuesday, June 27. The typewritten copy of the formal decision is dated June 30 and reads:

With respect to these lands—

The illegal fill in Lake Ontario.

—the board feels that due to special circumstances affecting them that there ought to be further study made and the board will therefore reserve its decision until such time as evidence is adduced as to the results of such further studies, or in the alternative until such time as application is made to this board for final disposition by any interested party. The board wishes to

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state that an application for final approval with respect to the remainder of the bylaw may be made at any time prior to the one year period, upon proper notice according to directions to be given by the board.

I read this to you for the simple reason that I was present at the hearings on Monday and Tuesday, June 26 and 27, and it is quite possible that an application will be made to the Ontario Municipal Board for the right to erect apartment houses on Lake Ontario while this house is in adjournment. I maintain that the cabinet must take this matter under advisement and give it consideration right away—not next October, next November or next December, by which time the proposed structures may be half up.

With regard to this matter and the gale of laughter that swept the house on the part of the unthinking, I would point out that on June 22 when I was speaking in the house during private members' hour the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill), in his paternalistic manner toward backbenchers or private members, pointed out that I was again riding one or two of my hobbyhorses that I ride from time to time. I would not have to trot out these hobbyhorses if the cabinet would take action on the matters that I bring to their attention. I am now bringing up the matter of illegal fill again because of this decision of the Ontario Municipal Board of June 27, the date on which it was rendered, which decision could be appealed during the adjournment period.

This filling in of Lake Ontario is not a matter that is peculiar to the riding of York-Humber or the riding of York West which is represented by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters), an able, capable and good representative of that area. This sort of thing applies to the entire Dominion of Canada. I speak of this matter of illegal fill in Lake Ontario because the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McIlraith) has not taken action under the Navigable Waters Protection Act. I get telephone calls, personal notes and letters from all over Canada on this question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I ask the hon. member to be relevant to the motion before the house.

• (12:50 p.m.)

Mr. Cowan: With regard to relevancy, may I point out that the former village of Long Branch, which was absorbed as a part of Etobicoke as of January 1 of this year, granted permission to Millgate Park Investments Limited to erect an 18-storey apartment house