

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE WITH REGARD TO PRIVATE BILL

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I wonder if at this stage the house would give consent to dealing with the private bill which we mentioned this morning, Bill No. S-30, an act to incorporate the Equitable General Insurance Company?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Chown): Does the house give unanimous consent to proceeding now with the private bill which was the subject of discussion earlier today?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE BILLS

THE EQUITABLE GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Mr. Robert Lafreniere (Quebec-Montmorency) moved that the house go into committee to consider Bill No. S-30, to incorporate the Equitable General Insurance Company.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Chown in the chair.

On clause 1—*Incorporation.*

(Translation):

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, with respect to this bill which was read for the second time in this house yesterday, I must say, first of all, that we, on this side of the house, readily agree that the standing orders be set aside in order that this bill may be passed today.

I understand the upper house has considered this bill in its three stages and has stated its approval. So that the adoption of this bill be not delayed, I would just ask the hon. member if he could tell us whether Mr. MacGregor, who is the expert in this field, has declared himself satisfied at the other place, not only with the bill in its present form but also with the statement of assets of the company, as far as both federal and provincial statutes are concerned, because I understand that in bills of this nature, it is necessary, under federal legislation, for the company to declare a certain amount of assets.

Mr. Lafreniere: Mr. Chairman, in order to relieve the moral responsibility of the members of this house, I must say that the wording and the provisions of this bill have been approved by the superintendent of insurance.

Mr. Chevrier: I simply wanted to ask the hon. member whether the superintendent had declared himself satisfied with the federal requirements with regard to this bill.

Mr. Lafreniere: He did, Mr. Chairman.

(Text):

Mr. Regier: Mr. Chairman, our procedure in this particular case is somewhat unusual. However, I wish to express on behalf of this group our complete confidence in the superintendent of insurance, Mr. MacGregor. This group has been advised that this bill in all respects has the endorsement of Mr. MacGregor. I wish to take this opportunity to say that, while we have tens of thousands of federal civil servants, very few of them have the confidence of the hon. members of this house to the extent that Mr. MacGregor has. It is on the basis of the assurance that we have received that Mr. MacGregor wholeheartedly approves of this bill that we are willing to agree to these unusual proceedings and allow the bill to pass.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 23 inclusive agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

(Translation):

Mr. Lafreniere: Mr. Chairman, I should like to thank all members of this house for their fine co-operation.

(Text):

Bill reported.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a third time; now?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lafreniere moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Chown in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

General administration—

111. Departmental administration, \$1,911,211.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, I think we all thought the other day that the Minister of Finance would introduce his estimates by making a statement, particularly with respect to his representations on behalf of this country at two very important international assemblies. I of course refer to the conference at Accra and the conference of the international monetary fund at Vienna. Is it the intention of the minister to introduce his estimates with a statement? If it is, I know the committee will give him the opportunity to speak prior to any other hon. member of the committee. Does the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance have anything to say in this connection?