

House of Commons Debates

THIRD SESSION—TENTH PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, January 24, 1907.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. SPEAKER. The time has expired for receiving the last three petitions and they therefore cannot be received. Is it the pleasure of the House to receive the other petitions?

Agreed to.

Mr. L. G. McCARTHY. In regard to those petitions which have not been received, is it in order to make any motion or to engage in any discussion in regard to them?

Mr. SPEAKER. I think that perhaps the proper procedure would be to move that they be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for their report.

Mr. L. G. McCARTHY. Then, I move that all the petitions which were presented on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week be referred to the Standing Orders Committee to be considered.

Mr. SPEAKER. Under rule 87.

Mr. FOSTER. Can that motion be made without notice?

Mr. SPEAKER. I think it can be made without notice of motion if there is no objection.

Mr. FOSTER. Notice will have to be given.

Mr. SPEAKER. Objection is taken that notice will have to be given in the usual way.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Is that point well taken, Mr. Speaker? The rule reads in this way:

Petitions for private Bills shall only be received by the House within the first six weeks of the session, and every private Bill shall be presented to the House within two weeks after the petition therefor has been favourably reported upon by the examiner or by the Committee on Standing Orders, and no motion for

the suspension of this rule shall be entertained unless a report has been first made by the Committee on Standing Orders recommending such suspension and giving their reasons therefore.

The committee cannot make a report unless the matter is referred to them. It seems to me that notice is hardly required under such circumstances. The motion, it seems to me, complies with the rule.

Mr. L. G. McCARTHY. If I may be permitted to say a word, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) who took objection, I do not think, was in the House yesterday when the discussion arose in regard to certain petitions which were presented yesterday. But, it makes the rule more drastic if you put the construction on it which the hon. Speaker has put upon it to-day when you understand that the petitions which were presented on Tuesday are being thrown out by this ruling. The clerks, as I understand, told everybody who made application to them that any petition presented to the House then would be within the time. There were nine petitions presented to the House yesterday and a considerable number, I understand, presented on Tuesday. The construction now placed upon the rule says that these petitions cannot be read and received to-day because the time has expired. A very technical argument might be made that the reception of these petitions by the House was when they were presented although not read and received perhaps for days afterwards. However, it is not my desire at present to controvert the ruling which the Speaker has made, but in order that the rule which he has invoked may be complied with these petitions must be sent to the Standing Orders Committee. It does not seem to me that this motion should require notice to be given, but if it does I would respectfully ask the hon. member who raised the objection not to press it. It is delaying, without any very great necessity, the progress of some fifteen or sixteen private Bills which have been petitioned for in this way. No advantage is being gained except that of time. The petitions are being sent to the place where they must go to be considered. This is not saying to the committee that any fine or fee which