

It seems to me that the hon. member has attempted to anticipate this difficulty by stating in the clause "he shall be eligible for remuneration and expenses and shall not, by reason of his being the holder of the office or place in respect of which such remuneration and expenses are payable, be rendered incapable of being elected, or of sitting or voting, as a member of the House of Commons". These are the penalties prescribed by the Senate and House of Commons Act for an infraction of this section.

The hon. member has attempted to anticipate any objections that might be raised and to provide immunity from the penalty provided under another statute. It seems to me that the terms of the bill are within the scope of the kind of legislation that can be sponsored by private members of the House.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I was interested in the point made by the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart) when he suggested that this bill should be regarded as in order because the money that would be paid to a Member of Parliament under the bill would not be new money. He argued that it is money that is already provided in a statute, and therefore it is not an additional charge upon the treasury. I am afraid I have to remind him that the rules in this respect do not stop at that point. For example, citation 246(3) of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition, which is one of the citations that bear on this point, reads as follows:

The guiding principle in determining the effect of an amendment upon the financial initiative of the Crown is that the communication, to which the royal demand of recommendation is attached, must be treated as laying down once for all (unless withdrawn and replaced) not only the amount of a charge, but also its objects, purposes, conditions and qualifications. In relation to the standard thereby fixed, an amendment infringes the financial initiative of the Crown, not only if it increases the amount, but also if it extends the objects and purposes, or relaxes the conditions and qualifications expressed in the communication by which the Crown has demanded or recommended a charge.

The rest of the sentence states that this applies to ministers as well as to private members. The hon. member for Cochrane argued that his bill does not involve any new money, but it seems to me that he is in effect seeking to amend two statutes. One is the Canadian Commercial Corporation Act, which has already laid down the conditions under which money is to be spent, and one of those conditions is the paying of expenses of certain identified people. He changes that condition by adding a Member of Parliament as a person who can be one of these people. The other act that he is seeking to amend is the Senate and House of Commons Act, and perhaps some other legislation affecting us, which says that Members of Parliament cannot get money in this way.

I concede the right of Parliament to pass a bill that would alter that condition, but since it is altering the financial situation in respect of Members of Parliament I submit that it would require the royal recommendation. In other words, it seems to me that on two counts this

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bill offends the principle that I just read from Beauchesne that a proposal infringes the financial initiative of the Crown, not only by increasing the amount of money involved but by extending its objects and purposes or relaxing the conditions and qualifications which have been expressed in a royal recommendation. On these counts it seems to me that the argument that it is not new money must fall to the ground.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the point of view put forward by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) with respect to the argument advanced by the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis) in terms of the bill not seeking to provide an expenditure of additional moneys. I submit that the word "additional" has no place in the consideration of whether the bill is in order in accordance with Standing Order 62(1). Your predecessors, Sir, have always been very precise and careful in interpreting Standing Order 62(1) in its broadest possible sense and, as I recall it, Mr. Speaker—when there has been any indication in a bill regarding the expenditure of what is looked upon as public revenue—has always used that to say that the bill should founder on that point. Standing Order 62 provides:

This House shall not adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue—

It is not a matter of any additional part, or anything that has not already been committed; this is a bill that seeks to appropriate some part of the public revenue to pay salary and expenses to a Member of Parliament who may sit on the Canadian Commercial Corporation. For my part, I have always felt that there should be a more lax approach taken by Mr. Speaker and the House in this respect, because I think there is far too much rigidity which generally has impinged upon the desires of hon. members to bring ideas forward.

I am very interested in seeing this bill proceed so that we will be able to examine the concept whereby it is suggested that one group of politicians, namely, the government, should have the right to appoint some other politicians to a corporation such as this. There are a number of other bills on the order paper along this line. This principle should be examined with some care and I suggest, Sir, that if you find after argument that the bill does founder and does not meet the test demanded by Standing Order 62(1), perhaps the hon. member could ask the unanimous consent of the House—the House is its own master in this regard—to waive Standing Order 62 in order that the bill may be proceeded with and considered.

I think the proposal in the bill is one that should be carefully examined in full public light in order to see what other manoeuvring might be involved in this system of allowing the government to appointment its friends to particular boards and corporations.