

*Private Bills*

I believe that this would be a colossal mistake. Besides, the hon. member for Dollard could perhaps try to disprove the statement that the municipal council of Pointe-aux-Trembles, at their meeting of November 4 last, refused to approve the construction of that bridge because they were well aware, undoubtedly from the information received, of the hazards of unfair use of that bridge, because the powers that would be given the corporation would be practically unlimited and Ile-aux-Asperges would become a closed island, since it would then be left to the whim of the directors of that corporation to impose burdensome charges. Now, Ile-aux-Asperges being closed, its residents would have to suffer inconvenience beyond any limit compatible with individual freedom.

And that is not all. Supposing for a moment that this company could benefit from the passing of this bill, it would go before its creditors and say: "We now have authorization from the federal government to build a bridge". It would then borrow money, not to start the construction of the bridge but rather to pay off old mortgages which have not been reimbursed for four years and it would carry on with the construction of the bridge over a period of more than three years.

Then, the company would be forced to come back before us and ask for an extension of the same powers for another period of three years, but in the meantime, the creditors would not get more benefits, because this bill is introduced for the sole purpose of paying off the debts of that corporation.

The directors mentioned are unknown in financial circles, except for Mr. Conrad Bock who is recognized as being insolvent. Among the others, Miss Cournoyer has been mentioned, and I do not think that she ranks among the business personalities of the metropolis. As for the other director, I have forgotten his name.

In short, it is dangerous to grant to an insolvent company the means to recover funds which will be used for other purposes than those for which they would be granted.

The municipality of Pointe-aux-Trembles is justified in objecting to the construction of the bridge.

**Mr. Gregoire:** Would the hon. member allow me a question?

**Mr. Paul:** Certainly.

**Mr. Gregoire:** Is the said Mr. Bock who has just been mentioned by the hon. member for Berthier-Maskinonge-Delanaudiere a director of Eagle Lumber Company?

**Mr. Pigeon:** No, no.

[Mr. Paul.]

**Mr. Paul:** No, I think that the hon. member for Lapointe is referring to Mr. Germain Bock.

**Mr. Pigeon:** This is not at all the same thing.

**Mr. Paul:** It is not the same Bock, he is not interested in the same business, because the one of whom we are speaking today is well known in legal circles, while the hon. member for Lapointe is referring to a gentleman who is well known in financial circles and his reputation is much above that of the fellow of whom we are now considering the solvency.

The corporation of Pointe-aux-Trembles has good reasons to object to parliament giving the power requested by Developpement Central Ville de l'Isle Inc. And why? Supposing a residential centre were established on Ile-aux-Asperges and that the company became insolvent—anyway it could not become insolvent, for it is already so. But supposing it were publicly confirmed at that time, the municipality of Pointe-aux-Trembles would have to assume the cost of building approaches to the bridge, of lighting and maintenance, and everything would fall back upon the taxpayers of the municipality of Pointe-aux-Trembles which would have to pay a rate not yet established, for using that bridge, as long as the company exists.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think this would be by-passing the authority best placed for judging the matter, that is the very municipality of Pointe-aux-Trembles which knows the site, the possible advantages and disadvantages of building that bridge and certainly also the standing wealth and solvency of the company directors. As a matter of fact, the municipal authorities are afraid that, if services, once established, cannot be continued, the principals, that is the present officers of the corporation of the municipality of Pointe-aux-Trembles will have to carry everything.

I am convinced it would ill beseem parliament to award jurisdiction over the St. Lawrence river, which is an international waterway, to a private concern. It would be the first time the parliament of Canada passed a bill supporting a private enterprise in the full meaning of the term.

The Three Rivers bridge corporation, Mr. Speaker, cannot be compared in any way with this company. The Three Rivers bridge corporation is having quite a hard time to carry out its project, even though its members are very capable businessmen. The whole district of Three Rivers, Drummondville, the north shore and the south shore will benefit from that bridge.