

beneficiaries to opt for certain variations in the manner of payment under contracts of insurance; and to deem designated beneficiaries, under prescribed circumstances, to be surviving spouses of the insured.

The Order being read for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration of Bill C-85, An Act respecting immigration security;

Mr. Andras (Port Arthur), seconded by Mr. Gillespie, moved,—That the Bill be now read a second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to a Committee of the Whole.

After debate thereon, the question being put on the motion, it was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Bill was read the second time, considered in Committee of the Whole, reported without amendment, concurred in at the report stage and, by unanimous consent, read the third time and passed.

[At 5.00 o'clock p.m., Private Members' Business was called pursuant to Standing Order 15(4)]

[Notices of Motions (Papers)]

By unanimous consent, Notices of Motions (Papers) Nos. 34, 37, 39, 35, 41 and 42, having been called, were allowed to stand at the request of the government.

(Private Bills)

The Order being read for the consideration of the report stage of Bill S-30, An Act to incorporate Continental Bank of Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs;

And a point of order having been raised by the honourable Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert).

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) has put forward a very fascinating argument about the validity of in fact having a report stage in respect of Private Members' Private Bills.

The analogy, if it were not expressed in Standing Order 116, would probably be understood in any case, but in order to make it perfectly clear Standing Order 116 says, and it has been referred to many times, that except as otherwise provided the provisions of the Standing Orders as to public bills apply to private bills. If that Standing Order were not there it might be interesting to note that there would be, I suppose, no regulation which would say that a private bill has to be read a first, second and third time, that there are restrictions on second reading amendments, that the bill can only be amended in detail when it gets to the standing committee, and that the stages of the bill can only be taken on different days without leave, and so on.

The fact of the matter is that there is no specific provision that I can see as I have been scanning through the arguments and research dealing with private bills which would provide for the regular and orderly dealing with private bills. It is done only by virtue of the fact that all of those regulations which apply to public bills have to apply to private bills as well. Since that sets up the first reading, second reading and third reading stages of the bill it would seem to me to be unacceptable to argue that it would not apply to the report stage of the bill in the same way.

If by analogy, therefore, private bills proceed from one stage to another because of Standing Order 116 making applicable all of the rules in respect of public bills to private bills, surely that must also apply to the rules as they relate to the report stage unless, of course, there is some provision which indicates that report stage is not at the disposition of the Member.

I think this is the point. It is not a question as to whether the stage follows automatically. What we are dealing with here is whether honourable Members ought to enjoy the same privileges under Standing Order 75 relating to report stage amendments with private bills as they do with public bills. It is a question of the right of the Member. A Member, it would seem to me, has the right as given to him by Standing Order 116 in every way to put down notice to require a report stage, to require 48-hour notice between the placing of the bill on the Order Paper and the beginning of report stage, and 24-hours' notice of any amendment to be given. In order to take that right away from Members it would seem to me there would have to be very clear authority somewhere for it.

The honourable Member alludes to the fact that Standing Order 116 only applies except as herein otherwise provided, and refers to Standing Order 109 which is a notice provision requiring 24-hours' notice of an amendment. The fact is I must take that only as a requirement as to notice and not as to substance. Besides that, it is exactly identical to the 24-hour notice requirement in respect of a report stage amendment, and therefore it can scarcely be taken as a departure from the Standing Orders as they relate to report stage amendments.

I therefore must conclude that since Standing Order 116 is really the only authority for setting up all of the other stages and prescribing the manner in which to deal with Private Members' Bills, I have to accept that the same Standing Order provides in exactly the same way for the report stage of private bills as it exists in fact for public bills.

The hour for Private Members' Business expired.

By unanimous consent, the House reverted to "Routine Proceedings".

By unanimous consent, the Notice of a Ways and Means motion with respect to an Anti-Inflation Levy laid upon the Table on Thursday, December 18, 1975, was withdrawn.