

one foot on each side of the fence. In this way we can easily make the worst of both worlds.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

Sections 1 to 13 inclusive agreed to.

On section 14—Coming into force.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): It is proposed that this act shall expire sixty days from the commencement of the first session of parliament commencing in the year 1948, or the 31st of March, 1948, whichever shall be the earlier date.

That was before the banking and commerce committee, and I understand that it was negatived by that committee. I should like to move that amendment now, for the judgment of the committee.

Mr. FLEMING: I should like to say a word on the subject.

The CHAIRMAN: Order; could I have the hon. member's amendment in writing?

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I have not the amendment written out, but the purpose of it is simply to add certain words at the end of the section.

The CHAIRMAN: Then perhaps the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario would write out his amendment while the hon. member for Eglinton makes his remarks.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Very well.

Mr. FLEMING: The banking and commerce committee should be commended for the work it has done on this bill, and I think that at least the members of that committee will agree with my statement.

In connection with the matter to which the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario has made reference, I think this committee should be aware of the fact that when this bill was introduced it did not provide for reports being tabled in the house. That serious defect was cured by an amendment introduced in the committee. A further amendment was introduced dealing with the timing of the effect of regulations in relation to their tabling, and publication in the *Canada Gazette*. There was also a substantial improvement made by the committee to the bill. But there still remains the question of the effective date of expiry of this bill. Section 14 of the original bill provides:

This act shall come into force upon the expiration of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act, 1945, and shall expire sixty days

from the commencement of the first session of parliament commencing in the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight.

That would suffice if we could be positive that parliament would be called together before the end of January, 1948. The footing upon which this bill was introduced, the footing upon which it was discussed on second reading and sent to the committee was that the bill would not have a life beyond March 31, 1948, under any circumstances unless specifically extended by the house. If parliament should not be called together until late in 1948 the effect of that section as it now stands might be to extend the effective life of this bill beyond March 31, 1948. Suppose parliament were not called together until the middle of March next, as was the case in 1946; it would mean that the effect of this bill might go on until nearly the end of May. It seems to me that that was not intended. The course which ought to be followed now, the course which I urged unsuccessfully in the committee, is that we should have in this section a provision analogous to that which was inserted in the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act in 1946, when the life of that measure was extended either to March 31, 1947 or to a date sixty days after the opening of the session of parliament in 1947, whichever was the earlier date. If that were done now we would be assured that this bill would not have a life beyond the date proposed originally by the government, namely, March 31, 1948.

That is a simple safeguard which I urge, and I would hope the government would readily agree to it. That is the footing upon which they brought the bill before us; the limitation on the life of the bill was emphasized by the government on the introduction of the bill. I think the suggestion now made to curb the life of the measure unless extended by addresses of both houses is a proper suggestion. Bill No. 104 is a kindred bill in the sense that it is designed to extend emergency legislation for a limited period. It will be seen that the expediency followed there by the government in introducing the bill is contained in section 7, which reads:

Subject as hereinafter provided, this act shall expire on the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and forty-seven, if parliament meets during November or December, one thousand nine hundred and forty-seven, but if parliament does not so meet it shall expire on the sixtieth day after parliament first meets during the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight or on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, whichever date is the earlier: provided that, if at any time while this act is in force, addresses are presented to the Governor General by the Senate and House of Commons respectively,