

Private Bills

and property. The result was that in the allocation of the funds a farmer could only receive assistance if his home had been damaged. It is well known that farmers show a little more foresight than city dwellers and erect their homes on the highest part of their land. The result was that the farm had to be totally inundated before the farmer's home would be damaged.

Extensive damage was done to the farms. Many of them were strewn with logs, stumps and other debris and there was considerable expense involved in clearing the debris off the land. In addition, the fields were waterlogged, which in many cases resulted in total crop failures. However in spite of this damage these farmers were unable to qualify for the assistance that was provided to the flood victims.

I believe I can understand the reason for that, Mr. Chairman. I do not think that the Department of Agriculture had made any preparations beforehand to meet such a situation, one which could well arise again from time to time in various regions of the country. What I should like to know today is whether the minister or the department has any plans to meet such an emergency, should it be repeated. There is a distinct danger of such a situation arising again in the same area this year because of the unusual circumstances I have outlined. Many of the farmers have not been able to recoup the losses they suffered four years ago and if such a situation should recur many of these farmers, who have had a rather tough time over the last three or four years, in all likelihood would be wiped out. May I call it five o'clock, Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: It being five o'clock it is my duty to leave the chair in order that the house may proceed to the consideration of private members' business, pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15.

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the house has been proceeding at a good and useful pace in the study of these estimates during the course of the afternoon. I am quite sure we will all find it very useful to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Timmins as soon as possible and I wonder whether there could be general agreement to waive the private members' hour for today?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, it seems that we get into a great amount of difficulty when we start to juggle the rules, so I suggest that we stick to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the

consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely private bills, public bills.

BANKRUPTCY ACT**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING WAGE EARNERS' ASSIGNMENTS**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On behalf of the hon. member for Winnipeg North, I should like to move second reading of this bill so that the Solicitor General can move an amendment to have the subject matter referred to the special committee that has been set up for this purpose. I believe it has been understood that on some occasion, and I believe today is the occasion, a number of bills on the order paper are to be given this treatment. Therefore, I move second reading of this bill for that purpose.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Has the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre been authorized by the hon. member for Winnipeg North to move this bill on his behalf?

Mr. Knowles: Yes.

Mr. Knowles (for Mr. Orlikow) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-3, to amend the Bankruptcy Act.

Hon. J. Watson MacNaught (Solicitor General): I move that the said bill be not now read the second time but that the subject matter thereof be referred to the special joint committee on consumer credit for further study.

Amendment agreed to.

SMALL LOANS ACT**AMENDMENT REQUIRING STATEMENT OF TRUE INTEREST RATE CHARGE**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (for Mr. Orlikow) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-13, to amend the Small Loans Act (advertising).

Hon. J. Watson MacNaught (Solicitor General): I move that the said bill be not now read the second time but that the subject matter thereof be referred to the special joint committee on consumer credit for further study.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MacNaught: If we could have unanimous consent, I suggest that you call order No. 11, Bill No. C-20.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.