

Grants to Municipalities

of the bill within a year. The hon. member says that in committee the minister stated, which would have been followed by a press release, that he was prepared to consider the formation of a special committee which would consider the question and would see that it is referred to the committee. This is another story.

I was not in committee, so unfortunately I can neither deny nor confirm it. I see the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Savard) is here, but I do not know whether he is in a position to confirm it or not. I see he is prepared to rise on the matter, Mr. Speaker, so I respectfully suggest that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works enlighten us on this.

Mr. Raymond Savard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member just said is in part quite true. We were in parliamentary committee and I believe the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cosgrove) gave the assurance that, from now on, when the bill is passed, he would consider the possibility of getting together all the groups involved, let us say specifically to meet those people and form a committee, and in the future, to give more information and be more available to those people.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, considering that statement by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Savard) which clarifies the government position on this, I do hope the hon. member will be satisfied with that statement made in the House and he will be able to speak to the amendments he put forward or withdraw them and no longer question the bill at this stage if he is satisfied with that statement made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works, otherwise I cannot object to the hon. member speaking further on the reasons for those amendments.

[English]

Mr. Yurko: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I direct it to the parliamentary secretary who witnessed the same procedure in committee that I did. I would simply like to put forward our understanding of the minister's commitment in committee. It was to this effect, that the minister shall prepare a report on the operation of this act and cause it to be laid before Parliament within 12 months of that act coming into force and that such report shall stand permanently referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Public Works.

The understanding I had from the minister in committee was that the minister would establish a committee of representatives of several departments of government to consult with the municipalities with regard to the amendments proposed, not only on this side of the House but by the various groups from Quebec and other parts of the nation which make submissions to the committee in the period of a year. As I indicated, he would bring this forward in the nature of a submission. If the parliamentary secretary will agree that that was what was agreed on in committee, I will then indicate that

we will be prepared to withdraw the amendments and proceed with the bill.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, if it is correct that the minister made that statement in committee, and I have no reason not to believe the hon. member, then that commitment will be on the record. I am sure that the minister is a man of his word and will live up to his commitment. I do not understand why the hon. member is again seeking confirmation of that statement. If the minister made a commitment in front of the standing committee of this House and that commitment appears in the record of the proceedings of that committee, that should satisfy the hon. member.

Mr. Yurko: Again, Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. This has gone on for too long. We have a commitment from the President of the Privy Council that if the statement was made by the minister in committee, he will stand by that commitment. I do not see why we should proceed any further on this. The question is on the amendment. Is there anyone who wishes to address the House on that amendment?

Mr. Yurko: Mr. Speaker, I hope I am rising on my last point of order. What we are interested in obtaining, and I assume I have obtained this commitment from the House leader, is that this is a government commitment rather than a ministerial commitment. Ministers come and go. What we want is a commitment in the House from the government rather than a ministerial commitment. I would like to hear from the House leader or the parliamentary secretary if they are prepared to give us a government commitment rather than a ministerial commitment.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to listen to the hon. member on the amendments. I have told the hon. member that if the minister made that statement in committee, it will be on the record and he will live by his commitment.

Mr. Nielsen: And so must the government.

Mr. Pinard: That is a conclusion drawn by the hon. member. He has the right to make his own judgment. What I am saying is that it is not necessary that this commitment be made over and over again. If it was made by the minister responsible in committee, the record will show that and he will live by his commitment. I do not see why the hon. member is insisting that the minister come back to the House and say that what he said in committee is the truth.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The question is on motion No. 1. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.