

for a shorter election period having regard to advances in mass media and transportation. This again is beyond the terms of the bill before us. What the honourable Member proposes are amendments to the Canada Elections Act, rather than to the Bill, which is before us, Bill C-211. That, to my mind, is the basic weakness of the proposed amendment.

In essence, the honourable Member's suggested reasoned amendment is not declaratory of any proposition adverse to, or differing from, the principle of the bill before us. For those reasons I cannot accept the amendment. May I be permitted, however, to add in conclusion that I hope honourable Members will understand, if the Chair has spent more time than it should have on the arguments made, that it did so in the hope that soon in the coming months honourable Members will have an opportunity to look again at the question of reasoned amendments. Regardless of the decision rendered now I invite honourable Members to look at this question at other times rather than in relation to an amendment which is before the House on a specific bill. Again, as I have said, so far as the amendment is concerned the Chair cannot accept it. This is mainly based on the present rules and practices of the House, on the precedents and on the previous decisions which have been taken. This is the only way, unless the rules of the House are changed, in which we can preserve this institution.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. MacEachen, seconded by Mr. Benson,—That Bill C-211, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be now read a second time and be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

And debate continuing;

[At 4.00 o'clock p.m., *Private Members' Business* was called pursuant to Standing Order 15(4)]

(Public Bills)

By unanimous consent, Order numbered one was allowed to stand.

The Order being read for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications of Bill C-16, An Act to amend the Blue Water Bridge Authority Act (public and financial accountability);

Mr. McCutcheon, seconded by Mr. McKinley, moved,—That the said bill be now read a second time and be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

And debate arising thereon;

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Mr. Speaker communicated to the House the following letter:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
OTTAWA

19 May 1972.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Wilfred Judson, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 19th day of May at 4.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ANDRÉ GARNEAU,

Administrative Secretary to the Governor General.

The Honourable

The Speaker of the House of Commons,
Ottawa.

A Message was received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate had passed the following Bills, without any amendment:

Bill C-208, An Act to amend the Pension Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act and the Department of Veterans Affairs Act to provide for the annual adjustment of pensions and allowances payable thereunder.

Bill C-207, An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act.

A Message was received from the Honourable Wilfred Judson, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, acting as Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General, desiring the immediate attendance of the House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker went with the House to the Senate Chamber.

And being returned;

Mr. Speaker reported that when the House did attend the Honourable the Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, His Honour was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following bills:

Bill C-207, An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act.—Chapter No. 10.

Bill C-78, An Act respecting the use of the expression "Parliament Hill".—Chapter No. 11.

Bill C-208, An Act to amend the Pension Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act, the Civilian War Pensions