

Financial Administration Act

Mr. Benson: Clause 32 contains certain prohibitions which were agreed to by the committee considering this legislation. I do not think the list of prohibitions rules out any rights possessed by an individual under the rule of common law. I am the last person to be talking as if I were an expert about the law as such. The only point I wish to make is that any common law rights there are still exist. That is as far as we can go. I do not think I can make any more comment.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

The Chairman: When shall the said bill be read a third time?

An hon. Member: By leave now.

Mr. Benson moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACTAMENDMENTS RESPECTING FUNCTIONS OF
TREASURY BOARD

The house in committee on Bill No. C-182, to amend the Financial Administration Act—Mr. Pearson—Mr. Batten in the chair.

On section 1: *Responsibilities of Treasury Board.*

● (8:10 p.m.)

Mr. Benson: I suppose there is little I need say about Bill C-182, which complements the two pieces of public service legislation with which the house has already dealt. The basic purpose of the bill is to amend the Financial Administration Act in such a way as to provide the Treasury Board with the authority it will require to act as the central management agency envisaged by the royal commission on government organization, and as the principal agent of the government in employer-employee relationships in the processes of collective bargaining.

I should like to say that in the case of this legislation, as in the case of the other bills we have considered, the government wishes to express its appreciation to the joint committee for the careful consideration given to this measure, as well as for the amendments which were introduced, and I should like to indicate at this point that the government is happy to support without reservation the bill as it was recommended by the special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons.

[Mr. Barnett.]

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Most of the comments which might normally have been made on this bill have already been made on its two companion measures. I have only three comments to make, now.

In earlier debate I expressed reservations about the transfer of all responsibility for classifications and establishments from the Public Service Commission to the Treasury Board, a politically motivated body no matter how dedicated the secretary and the officers of that board might be. To this change I adopt what I might describe as a wait and see attitude. As long as I am in this chamber, personally, I shall endeavour to check and monitor the work of the Treasury Board in this respect.

The bill as originally presented to us contained no provision for appeal in the case of dismissal on security grounds. It has been greatly improved in the special joint committee by the inclusion of a mandatory provision for an inquiry prior to a person's dismissal for security reasons. But it is still weak, inasmuch as it leaves the nature of the inquiry totally undefined; the matter is left to regulation by the governor in council, the dismissing body.

I believe that some certainty, some procedure enacted and specified by parliament itself, is not only desirable but essential. Were it not for the fact that this new clause is one which must obviously be studied by the royal commission on security headed by Max W. Mackenzie, I would be prompted to move an amendment to establish formal procedures on appeal. If my words are heard by the commission I submit that they should devise and recommend formal and public procedures or techniques of inquiry for inclusion in this legislation.

Finally, I want to express my grave reservations about the provision for Governor-General's warrants which is re-enacted in this measure. I will await clause 6 before expressing my firm disapproval of this undemocratic technique of public financing.

With these comments made, we have no reason to delay the passage of this bill.

Mr. Lewis: Like the hon. member for Carleton I shall not take very much time. I would point out to hon. members of the committee who have not had the occasion to study this bill as closely as those of us who were on the special joint committee that the measure now before us represents a serious and important change in government organization.