

offer some suggestions to the Government. This part is short, and reads as follows:

The Governor in Council in order to increase Canada's supply of foreign exchange may, on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance, enter into agreements with individuals, partnerships or corporations to grant assistance by way of special tax credits and/or special allowances for depreciation or depletion under the Income War Tax Act and the Excess Profits Tax Act, if, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, such assistance is necessary in order that an expansion of the exports of any individual, partnership or corporation receiving such assistance may take place.

I am advised by the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) that to this section an amendment, which does not appear in the printed Bill as now before us, was made in the other House.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think my right honourable friend has a copy.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes. As I am advised by the honourable leader, this requires that a report on the actions of the Governor in Council, in pursuance of section 8, which is Part III of the Bill, shall be laid before Parliament in due course. The amendment obviously is right, and would be approved here as in another place.

On this section I want to make certain comments. First, the power given the Governor in Council here is simply startling. So wide is this power that there is nothing he cannot do under it. He can take any single company in any industry and make any bargain that he wishes with it. For taxation purposes he can treat it on a certain basis—relieve it, or penalize it, according to his own sweet will—and to that company's competitor across the street he can give exactly the opposite treatment. Whatever he does will be legal to the last detail and could never be impugned or assailed in court. In a word, this section just places the Governor in Council at the bar and gate of the customs, and tells him: "Through here will pass all the taxpayers of Canada. Do exactly as you like with each and all." Never in our history have we reposed such power in the Governor in Council. But, again, we are in the Senate of Canada, and this is a money Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Has my right honourable friend read the explanations given by the Minister of Finance?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I could not read them, because they are not in print yet. However, no explanation by the Minister could alter the words that are in the Act.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I speak subject to correction, but I understand this section is intended to deal with an industry as a whole,

as, for instance, the gold-mining industry, the increasing of whose production would have a very valuable effect upon our exchange. It is not my understanding that the Minister ever had in mind the application of special treatment to an individual, unless that should become necessary in pursuance of a general course directed towards our chief objective, the winning of the war.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Then the Bill should be amended to empower the Minister to deal with an industry instead of with an individual. As it reads now, the Minister may treat any individual as he wishes. He is not required to deal with different gold-mining companies, let us say, in different ways, but he could do that if he desired: to one he could offer an open hand, and to another a closed fist. There is no restriction whatever upon his actions. According to what we read in the Press, and to my apprehension of the meaning, the real object of the section is the giving of assistance to the newsprint industry. It might have been wise to set out the industries which do a big export business, and to define the principles upon which they should be taxed. Such legislation could be defended and may be necessary at this time. But the measure now before us places the Minister at the receipt of customs. It does not do what the legislation of last session did—establish a board of referees to advise the Governor in Council how to deal with each and every taxpayer who applies for relief. I do not know that that legislation was much better, yet I think it might be assumed that the board of referees would be somewhat impartial. But here all the power is given to a Minister of the Crown, a member of a partisan Government. Parliament tells him: "Do just what you want with John Smith, paper maker, and, if you think it advisable, do just the opposite to Tom Brown, his competitor across the street." To the Abitibi Company, which is in liquidation, the Governor in Council can apply one rule, to Price Brothers another, and to the Mersey Company still another. In every case it is the Minister who makes the recommendation to the Governor in Council and who is the judge. That is not legislation. That is just abandonment, surrender and abdication of Parliament. You cannot describe it otherwise.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: By the will of Parliament.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: By the will of Parliament, among the elected members of which the Government has a majority of three to one. Parliament is made nothing