

Emergency Powers Act

measure to annul any of these orders in council would be met by the same attitude with which we are met today when we challenge the need for parliament to abdicate and give extraordinary powers over property and civil rights. Indeed, so far as the provinces are concerned it is a complete abdication of their rights under the constitution.

What do you need these powers for? If the situation is as serious as you say, you certainly do not show it in other particulars. If the situation is that serious, then parliament would certainly be the last to deny your request, if war were that eminent. Surely you do not want to be loaded down with powers over the rights of Canadians so that they become mere robots in your hands for you to direct, merely so you can pass an order in council about a five-cent piece, another about a few sailors on the great lakes, and revoke two or three other orders in council. Surely parliament has the right to ask that freedom be restored to parliament hill; because the passing of legislation such as this means that we might just as well close down parliament, except that you would have to call it back in order to get supply. Other than that you would be supreme.

Why should you ask for powers like these on the weak, meagre grounds you have given? One is that the situation might demand immediate action, that war might flare up in some part of the world and we would need immediate action. If we ever come to that you have the War Measures Act. Surely it is a weak-kneed explanation to say that you want power now so that if the situation ever does develop in that way you will not have to use the War Measures Act because it may shock the sensibilities of the Canadian people. To me this is a ridiculous attitude on the part of the government because I remember the Prime Minister when he was minister of justice—I have the speech here that he made in 1945—saying that we were in the post-war period now, that they wanted these powers only for a year and only wanted to continue them for a short time. Mr. Bracken, the then leader of the opposition, said that if the powers were only to continue for a short time and if the government needed them, the opposition, while disagreeing with the government having them, would let the house go into committee for the purpose of the government explaining the matter.

At that time the measure was passed on division. That is clear from the record because the late Ian Mackenzie, who led the government at that time, made very sure that we in the opposition had taken a stand against this legislation. Even before we could

do so he made the declaration "on division". I ask the minister a simple question: Will these powers convey the extraordinary rights I have suggested over property everywhere in Canada, and over the individual? If they will, why not simply ask for parliament to close down, because if you exercise these powers that is really what happens. If they will not, what do you want them for?

The Chairman: Order. It being five o'clock, the house will consider private and public bills.

PRIVATE BILLS

SECOND READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. 113, for the relief of Marguerite Irene Bastien Taschereau.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 114, for the relief of William Gordon Quinn.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 115, for the relief of Joseph Brennan.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 116, for the relief of Henry Collingwood.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 117, for the relief of Douglas Malcolm Stephen.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 118, for the relief of Mary Lane Taylor.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 119, for the relief of Stanley Gordon Fowler.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 120, for the relief of Ethel Florence Flack Towne.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 121, for the relief of Mary Katherine Randell Clarke.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 122, for the relief of Ralph Wellington Goodyear.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 123, for the relief of Donald Gagnon Fontaine.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 124, for the relief of Marie Sylvaine Alain Dahlstrom.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 125, for the relief of Ruth Schwartz Cohen.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 126, for the relief of Annie Mislovitch Cohen.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 127, for the relief of Minnie Miki Simon Werkzeig, otherwise known as Minnie Miki Simon Werk.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 128, for the relief of Antonio Proietti.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 129, for the relief of Ida Hier Blant.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 130, for the relief of Hilda Irene Roddis Galbraith.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 131, for the relief of Ivy Helen Jean Morton Starke.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 132, for the relief of Barney Flegal.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 133, for the relief of Marie Renee Emond Walker.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 134, for the relief of Edwin George Chafe.—Mr. Winkler.