

Hon. B. F. SMITH: Honourable senators, I happen to be a member of the Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills. I was present at the meeting yesterday, and after listening to the legal arguments so clearly and forcefully advanced on both sides, I should have found it possible to vote on either side with a clear conscience; and so I was the one member of the committee who refrained from voting. The capacity of the company which my honourable friend from Ottawa East (Hon. Mr. Coté) represents, was the only stumbling block I had to get over. There is a possibility that in the future the company will apply for a licence to do a life insurance business.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: That applies to all other companies.

Hon. Mr. SMITH: That applies to all other companies. I just thought I should make it clear that I found myself in the very unenviable position I have described.

Hon. Mr. COTE: The honourable senator who has just taken his seat made use of the words "the company which my honourable friend from Ottawa East represents." May I say that in the committee yesterday, for the first time in my life, I saw the company's representatives. I did not know who they were. I am not representing them. I sat there as a member of the Senate, listening to the discussion. I was impressed by the argument made by the opponents of the Bill, and I must say that notwithstanding the respect I usually have for the opinion of some honourable gentlemen who have spoken to-day I have not yet changed my mind.

The motion was agreed to.

DIVORCE BILLS

SECOND READINGS

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robinson, Chairman of the Committee on Divorce, the following Bills were severally read the second time:

Bill A2, an Act for the relief of Stella Kathleen Marguerite Winnall Barwick.

Bill B2, an Act for the relief of Joyce Elizabeth Blackburn Gordon.

Bill C2, an Act for the relief of Kate Elizabeth Laidlaw McNiven.

Bill D2, an Act for the relief of Margaret Livingstone Turnbull Woodard.

Bill E2, an Act for the relief of Dorothy Sunshaine Steirman Cooke.

Bill F2, an Act for the relief of Doris Golt Rosner.

Bill G2, an Act for the relief of Anna Pohopluck Yacobchak.

Bill H2, an Act for the relief of Myer Levine.

Bill I2, an Act for the relief of George Sutherland Cameron, Junior.

Bill J2, an Act for the relief of Fred Catlow.

THIRD READINGS

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: In view of the imminence of a long adjournment, I would move, with the consent of the House, that these Bills be now read a third time.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bills were read the third time, and passed.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. H. KING moved the second reading of Bill 14, an Act to amend The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939.

He said: Honourable senators, at our meeting yesterday the honourable senator from Peel (Hon. Mr. Marshall) explained this Bill and asked for second reading; but it was found that the Bill was not on the files of honourable senators, and, objection being taken, the second reading was postponed. I now move the second reading.

Hon. J. J. DONNELLY: Honourable senators, I do not wish the few remarks I am going to make to be taken as an approval of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, which was passed in 1939. I thought at that time, and I still think, it was class legislation, which it is very hard to defend. But that is not before us to-day. What we have before us now is an amendment to that measure. I think the amendment is a proper one, because when a section has had a total crop failure, the fact that the price of wheat is 80 cents is no help to the settlers there. I am quite satisfied with the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this Bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Honourable senators, at this morning's meeting of the Banking and Commerce Committee we considered this Bill and approved it without amendment. It was taken up by unanimous consent of the committee, because we had present the Minister who is in charge of the Bill. I make this statement by way of indicating that it will not now be necessary to send the Bill to the committee, unless some honourable senators desire to refer it back for further consideration.