

*Private Bills*

a look at the minutes of proceedings of the Miscellaneous Private Bills Committee. They will be struck by the fact that the only questions asked appeared to be put for the reason of getting the names of those asking the questions on the record. There does not seem to be much justification otherwise for the report.

When this bill was up for second reading the same kind of questions were asked about the government's intention with regard to doing something about the format and method of introducing such bills. I had hoped that this matter would be discussed in the committee. I find that it was not. I think that the chairman is lacking in this regard in his chairmanship of the committee because I think that in this case the relationship between the individual and the public at large is not necessarily being protected. I believe the evidence will bear this out. The hon. member for Ottawa East (Mr. Richard) drew certain things to the attention of the committee and the representative of the organization and he asked a question which I shall read. I quote from page 8 of the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills for Tuesday, March 8, 1966:

Mr. Richard: Mr. Belfoi, I wonder if you could instruct us as to the reason why all these bills come before this Committee. Is there no provision within the Committee's Act or provincial Act to do the same—

**The Chairman:** Order, please. The hon. member is now discussing something which is not contained in the bill itself, although I recognize that the bill itself is contained in the general observations he is making. I think it might be better if the hon. member were to confine his remarks to the bill in general, since we are on clause 1, and not discuss the method of handling this particular piece of legislation.

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Chairman, I only referred to the committee report. I would assume that reference to the committee report covering the discussions that took place in the standing committee would be in order. Otherwise Your Honour would probably have a responsibility to draw to the attention of the house the fact that the chairman of this committee did not carry out the duties we gave him in referring this bill to the attention of that committee.

The problems that we are concerned with in this bill are fairly general. You will notice from the report that in six lines all sections of the bill were moved and carried without

any discussion at all. The discussion came before the sections of the bill itself were introduced.

In the committee questions were asked why this matter should come before parliament. I think this is where the problem in regard to this particular bill might lie. We are certainly not opposed to the Evangelistic Tabernacle or to their parliamentary agent, Mr. Belfoi, making a presentation to the federal parliament for incorporation of the Tabernacle. I think it is the natural thing to do. But the question I want to ask is, why should they come to the federal parliament? Why should they ask for a present form—

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I must advise the hon. member that he is still out of order. He is talking about something not contained in clause 1 of this bill. He is making references to the method by which such legislation is handled by parliament and why it is handled in that way. That is a separate question altogether from what is before us now, which is clause 1 of the bill, the principle of the bill having already been approved.

**Mr. Peters:** We shall accept your ruling, of course, Mr. Chairman. However, I contend that on clause 1 of a bill it is usual to have a general discussion. Unless we have new rules, there can be a general discussion on the bill.

My point is that parliament is being asked to incorporate the Evangelistic Tabernacle which is coming here because of the requirements of federal legislation contained in the Companies Act, a federal statute. The Tabernacle seeks to be incorporated and to do a number of things set out in this bill. The objects of the corporation include such things as promoting, maintaining, superintending and carrying on, in accordance with the Christian faith, certain things. A number of things are outlined that it seeks to do.

• (6:30 p.m.)

My purpose in discussing the general terms of the bill on clause 1, and I am surprised that the parliamentary agent was not asked this question, is to ask why the bill is in this form. I believe we can reasonably ask why an organization of this kind should require all the things outlined in detail in the bill such as the power to hold property, lend money, borrow money, establish and administer trusts and so on. With these powers one could effectively operate a corporation of almost any stature.