

Order Paper Questions

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 246 and 254.

[Text]

VETERANS AFFAIRS—LAWYERS IN PROVENCHER

Question No. 246—**Mr. Epp:**

From June 1, 1974 to date, what lawyers in the Constituency of Provencher were given work by the Department of Veterans Affairs and what amount was each paid per year?

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): In so far as the legal agents of the Minister of Justice are concerned: None.

ENVIRONMENT—LAWYERS IN PROVENCHER

Question No. 254—**Mr. Epp:**

From June 1, 1974 to date, what lawyers in the Constituency of Provencher were given work by the Department of Fisheries and the Environment and what amount was each paid per year?

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): In so far as the legal agents of the Minister of Justice are concerned: None.

[English]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1978-79

MEASURE TO GRANT SUPPLEMENTARY BORROWING POWER

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-7, to provide supplementary borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1978-79 and to amend the Financial Administration Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

[Mr. Kaplan.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before putting the question, may I advise the House, pursuant to the special order adopted on Thursday, October 26, 1978, a total of five hours has been allocated to report stage and third reading stage of this bill.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Not including any time spent on votes.

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe) moved:

That Bill C-7, to provide supplementary borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1978-79 and to amend the Financial Administration Act, be amended in clause 5 by striking out lines 22 to 24 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

"5. (1) This act shall come into force on a date, after royal assent, to be fixed by proclamation."

He said: Before Your Honour leaves the chair, could we have a clarification of your interpretation of the House order under which we are operating? Quite rightly Your Honour referred to five hours of debate for report stage and third reading of Bill C-7, but I understood that was exclusive of any time to be taken in the voting proceedings. Is that correct?

Mr. Speaker: That is my specific recollection. If there is any disagreement on that, I can be informed, but my specific recollection is precisely in the terms stated by the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens).

In order to set the record straight, the last paragraph of the order reads as follows:

That the report and third reading stage of the bill not exceed a total of five hours in addition to any time required for divisions.

Mr. Stevens: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In speaking to my motion today, I feel hon. members may be interested in an explanation of why I feel this motion deserves support. If hon. members refer to Bill C-7, they will note that the clause I am proposing to change simply reads as follows:

This act shall come into force or be deemed to have come into force on November 1, 1978.

During committee proceedings there was considerable questioning of the minister and certain of his officials respecting the present state of the borrowing authority of the Government of Canada. They were asked to what extent debt already was incurred under previous borrowing authorities, and to what extent is there room to borrow more funds.

The reason this questioning was so significant was because last March the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) secured an authority to borrow an additional \$5 billion. At that time he indicated that that borrowing authority would be sufficient to suit the government's needs until the end of fiscal 1978-79. In short, the authority was granted to the minister by parliament on the understanding that that was all he needed. Then, on the introduction of this bill, the minister stated that an additional \$7 billion is needed. He gave various reasons why that additional amount was needed. For example, he stated that foreign borrowings had exceeded expectation, and that the Canada Savings Bond issue had to be covered.