

Business of the House

That Bills S-33 and S-34 which received first reading this day be now read a second time and referred to the standing committee on banking and commerce for consideration forthwith, and that standing orders 94(3) (a), 102, 106 and 116 be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to, bills read the second time and referred to the standing committee on banking and commerce.

Mr. Ian Grant Wahn (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, by unanimous consent I move, seconded by Mr. Klein:

That Bills SD-252 to SD-356, both inclusive, which received first reading this day be now read a second time and referred to the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills for consideration forthwith, and that standing orders 93, 94(3) (a), 100, 102, 106 and 116 be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to, bills read the second time and referred to the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): This morning, during the question period, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre asked whether it was essential at this particular stage of the session to go on to complete the bill relating to the surcharge order. All hon. members are, I know, anxious that the remaining business of the house be cleared up as soon as possible and it is certainly not the desire of the government to defer the conclusion of this portion of the session unless it is urgently necessary to do so.

With this in mind, and having regard to the fact that on the second reading of this bill the house has already indicated its approval in principle of the objectives the government seeks to achieve by this measure, the government is prepared not to insist that the bill itself be proceeded with today. In making this statement, I should like to emphasize that the government has no intention whatever of abandoning its plan to seek approval of the bill by parliament. Accordingly, the government will be going ahead with the bill in the house at the earliest possible opportunity after parliament resumes in the fall.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Before the next order is called, may I point out that it is already four o'clock and I wonder if there could be general agreement in the house that we would have the hour from five to six which is set down for public and private bills available so as to continue with government business, and that we would resume at seven o'clock to continue with government business on the items apart from the one to which my hon. friend has referred—the items which were mentioned

last night. At the conclusion of those items, if we are able to conclude them this evening, we would then take sufficient time for private bills to dispose of the divorce bills and any of the other private bills which hon. members are willing to dispose of. If that were agreed on I think it would facilitate the conclusion of our business.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOAN BOARD**PROVISION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES**

The house resumed, from Thursday, August 1, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-76, to promote increased employment in Canada by financial assistance by way of loans to municipalities to enable municipalities to augment or to accelerate municipal capital works programs—Mr. Sharp (for Mr. Gordon)—Mr. Batten in the chair.

On clause 2—*Definitions*.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 2 carry?

Mr. Smith: No, Mr. Chairman. My remarks on this clause are directed to subclause (a). In discussing this bill I must say that if it were not so late in this part of the session it would be hard not to say I told you so because if the Prime Minister and the government of the day had given a little more consideration to the advice directed to them from this side of the house at the resolutions stage the necessity for the wide amendments now being made would not have arisen. I am referring to clause 2(a) and I suggest to the government that they have chosen a very cumbersome and expensive way to administer the legislation.

When the minister was making his second or third explanation last night he said that he wanted the legislation to operate with the maximum speed and with the smallest administrative cost possible. I suggest to the government that they will accomplish neither objective by setting up a board. Such action is completely unnecessary, is not only cumbersome but also expensive and will also result in delay. I suggest that the government would have been better advised to follow their own precedent or, better still, the precedent of our government in the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act of 1960-61 or the method the Liberals used when they were last in power with regard to the Municipal Grants Act. Instead of setting up a board, the powers in the legislation should be delegated to a specified minister and the provisions put into operation by him. That

[Mr. Asselin (Richmond-Wolfe).]