

*Emergency Powers*

Mr. HACKETT: That just is not so.

Mr. TIMMINS: I am suggesting that there is some civility in this house between hon. members. We have the undertaking of the minister that a bill dealing with old age pensions will be brought down this session, and I think we should absolve ourselves from discussion of the matter on Bill No. 104. Let the minister bring down his bill and then we can discuss the matter at the proper time. I am not suggesting for one minute that we obviate the necessity of dealing with this matter at considerable length and in the detail to which it is entitled.

Then we have the labour sections of this bill. There are quite a number of sections dealing with labour legislation which was passed during the days of the war. As a matter of fact, some of the provinces did not pass coordinating labour legislation during the war. Just the other day one of the legislatures passed its own labour law. I am not suggesting that we should in any way obviate the necessity of dealing with a national labour code when it is brought before us, but I do think that some civility should be shown by one party to the other with respect to the magnitude of this bill and that we should take the minister's undertaking in regard to bringing in of a separate bill. I am suggesting that the bill should be brought down as soon as possible so that we may obviate the necessity of discussion at the present time.

One of the items to be dealt with under this bill is leaseholds. This is the first time since October 11, 1941, that we in this parliament have had a chance to deal with these leasehold measures. While we have sat here day after day prepared to deal with these measures, new orders dealing with matters which parliament should be dealing with have been passed. I do not think we have any right to delegate these powers to the minister because they are matters with which we ourselves are concerned. Some people say that the emergency is over, while others say that it is not over, but the fact of the matter is that these wartime leasehold regulations are the responsibility of parliament. No matter what we may be told, I do not think we can swallow all the regulations and orders which have been passed with respect to commercial and residential leaseholds.

Perhaps some hon. members have had some experience with leasehold matters and realize the difficulties that have arisen in respect thereto. Commercial leaseholds are covered by order 315 of the wartime prices and trade board. This order permits a landlord, who finds that his premises are being leased at less than similar premises in the same or a similar

[Mr. Martin.]

district are being leased at, to make application to have his rentals increased to that level. As a matter of fact, in the city of Toronto from which I come, not only has there been a levelling here or there, but what has happened in the last few years is that the whole floor level has been raised. Almost every commercial building in the city has found ways and means of getting a higher rental from one tenant, and then lifting up one by one the rents of all the other tenants in the building. Then that would spread across the street to another building; it would spread down the street and then into the next street until the whole downtown district was affected. That was the case not only with light manufacturing buildings but also with our office buildings.

I do not suppose that there is an office building of any size in the city of Toronto which has not had its rentals increased during the war by ten, fifteen or twenty-five per cent. Then what happened? While we were sitting in parliament, new regulations were passed under date of March 1, 1947, to increase commercial rentals by another twenty-five per cent. It may be all very well, but I do not think there was any necessity for increasing commercial rentals in that city by fifteen per cent and then allowing another increase of twenty-five per cent to be made.

However, even supposing it was proper, what about the other order, No. 294, having to do with residential leases? The fact of the matter is that there is no similar clause in the residential order. As to residential properties there has been no provision for levelling up of rents in accordance with natural justice even in cases of extreme hardship.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I call the hon. member's attention to the fact that on second reading there should be only a discussion of the general principle of the bill, not a discussion of any specific orders in council. The hon. member is discussing certain orders in council. That would be permissible when the house is in committee; but at the present time he should discuss just the principle of the bill.

Mr. TIMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I shall accept your ruling in the matter. But I wish to point out that the leasehold orders before us, comprise nine or ten different amending orders with which we are asked to deal here. I have dealt with these matters in some particularity in order to place before the house difficulties which may arise in connection with the passing of this bill, and I have done it for a purpose.

The purpose is this. I think the passage of the patent bill tonight, and the ease with which the export-import bill passed the house must