

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 29, 1955

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Third report of standing committee on banking and commerce.—Mr. Croll.

RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING—CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT

Mr. H. P. Cavers (Lincoln) presented the first report of the sessional committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

INTEREST ACT

AMENDMENT TO PLACE CEILING ON INTEREST RATES

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 303, to amend the Interest Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Argue: The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to place a ceiling on interest rates that may be charged, providing a maximum of 12 per cent per annum.

Motion agreed and bill read the first time.

SMALL LOANS ACT

AMENDMENT TO REDUCE COST OF LOANS

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 304, to amend the Small Loans Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Argue: The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for a reduction of the rate of interest or cost of loans provided under the Small Loans Act from 2 per cent per month to 1 per cent per month.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. 286, for the relief of Joseph Alexandre Roland Simard.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 287, for the relief of Winnifred Blanche Brook McGurk.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 288, for the relief of Gitel Shepsel Moscovitch.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 289, for the relief of Susan Frosst Cohen.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 290, for the relief of Norma Constance Parsons Lindsey.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 291, for the relief of Erna Reiter Kastelberger.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 292, for the relief of Nickola Bochna, otherwise known as Nicholas Bockan.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 293, for the relief of Robert Fraser Callahan.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 294, for the relief of Ruth Barsuk Cohen.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 295, for the relief of Bernice Noble Comm.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 296, for the relief of Francis Ambrose Higgins.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 297, for the relief of Elizabeth Coyle Ellis Gibbons.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 298, for the relief of Blanche Mary Shurge Labelle.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 299, for the relief of Beatrice Teresa Mathewson Connell.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 300, for the relief of Joyce Hilda Street Janson.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 301, for the relief of Joyce Gertrude Haworth Rawlings.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 302, for the relief of Jean Eudes Deschenes.—Mr. Hunter.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PRESS REPORTS OF IMMINENT ATTACK ON QUEMOY AND MATSU

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is there any foundation for the general statement that is being made in the press of the United States that an imminent attack on Quemoy and Matsu by red China is anticipated? Would the minister say whether he has any information that would confirm or deny this statement. Would he also give a general résumé of the present situation relative to those two islands.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have seen the reports to which my hon. friend refers