

to the point made by the senator from Vancouver (Hon. Mr. McKeen) that one reason why we should feel perfectly comfortable about this bill is that it will be administered by the present Minister of Trade and Commerce. Now I share the view that the present minister to whom we are giving these powers has a strong sense of balance in administration, and that he will unquestionably do what he in his judgment considers is the best thing to be done. But I repeat that that is not a basis upon which any law should be passed by parliament.

**Hon. Mr. Hayden:** Is my honourable friend suggesting that this measure is being considered on the basis that a certain minister will administer it?

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** No, I did not say that.

**Hon. Mr. Hayden:** That is what I gathered my honourable friend was suggesting.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** I was dealing with a point made by the senator who moved second reading of the bill (Hon. Mr. McKeen), and was simply pointing out that that point does not furnish a basis upon which we should decide to support the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Hayden:** I agree with you as to that.

**Hon. Mr. McKeen:** I hope the house did not think I was urging that this bill be passed because it would be administered by a certain man. The powers mentioned in the bill are conferred upon the government as a whole, but I repeat that it is fortunate that the man who for the time being would be administering the law has been tried and found true in the administration of other laws in exactly the same field.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** That may be all very well.

**Hon. Mr. McKeen:** The power is being sought by the government, not by one man.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** My honourable friend was not on very sound ground when he advanced that as an argument for commending the bill to the favourable consideration of the house.

Honorable senators will have noted that the power given in this bill, unless extended by an address to His Excellency from both houses of parliament, will expire on July 31, 1952. That means that if a request is made for an extension, we will at that time have an opportunity to again consider this legislation. It is well that the government has seen fit to put that provision in the bill.

**Hon. Mr. King:** There is also the protection that parliament will meet again in 1951, and of course its action will be supreme.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Does my honourable friend from Kootenay East, for whom I have very great respect, suggest that parliament might see fit to change this legislation in 1951?

**Hon. Mr. King:** If the minister or the government fails to administer it properly, parliament would then have the initiative to change it.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** That is quite true; the power to do so is contained in the bill.

**Hon. Mr. King:** I know what the bill contains, but the power can be changed by parliament.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Now, let us not get at cross-purposes.

**Hon. Mr. Lambert:** It is a safeguard.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Power is given in the bill to terminate the measure at an earlier date.

**Hon. Mr. King:** Yes.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** I have just said that the measure will be reviewed by parliament not later than July 31, 1952.

**Hon. Mr. King:** If there is maladministration of the Act, parliament will review it.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Of course, parliament can at any time criticize maladministration, but that is not the point I am making. I say that the powers given by this bill must come under review by parliament not later than July 31, 1952, at the latest, and that is a sound provision.

**Hon. Mr. Lambert:** May I interrupt for one moment to make clear a point mentioned by the honourable senator from East Kootenay (Hon. Mr. King)? This session has demonstrated the fact that public opinion in Canada is reflected in the action of parliament to such an extent that the paralysing railway strike was quickly settled. That strike was not settled by the government, but by parliament. Therefore, if public opinion is dissatisfied with the legislation now being considered, that feeling will be made known to parliament, and necessary changes will be made.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** That is quite true.

**Hon. Mr. Lambert:** The point should be made quite clear.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** I venture to suggest that legislation would not likely be changed except as a reflection of public opinion. In any event, I appear to be getting into unnecessary controversy.