

*Northern Canada Power Commission*

period for appeal will expire within ten days after having made an order or having issued a notice in Ottawa. In light of the postal service which it is Canada's disgrace to have at the present time, it is very chancy that one could get notice within the appropriate time to consider a government or court order and instruct a solicitor or take the necessary action.

● (1440)

There is one thing I want to point out in this bill that is ironic in that we are going to discuss the Judges Act later when dealing with salaries. This bill increases the number of commissioners from five to seven and provides for the payment of expenses, including travelling and living costs incurred by the commissioners in the performance of their duties under the act. I am wondering whether certain individuals in this House or engaged in the media, particularly the more hysterical ones, will take these expenses and add them to the salaries or honoraria of the commissioners and say that shall be their remuneration for the year.

**Mr. Sharp:** That is only for members of parliament.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** As the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) suggests, this is a unique privilege reserved for members of parliament whose expenses are added to their salaries and the total deemed to be their revenue for the year. It does not happen in respect of public servants, editors of newspapers, publishers or radio station disc jockeys, many of whom earn a great deal more than members of parliament. I hope when we see the reports in respect of the salaries of the commissioners of the Northern Canada Power Commission in the public accounts, they will include their travelling expenses and all those things chargeable to their accounts.

As to the amendment put forward by the Senate, of course it is acceptable and it is a good thing that it has been brought forward.

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, I should also like to say a few words about Bill C-13, to amend the Northern Canada Power Commission. I understand it has been around for a long time. As a matter of fact, it has been in the planning stage, and so on, for a number of years.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** It is known as the Sir John A. Macdonald bill.

**Mr. Firth:** It was considered for a long time in committee, where we heard from a number of witnesses from both territories. I think the amendment to this bill is a very small but perhaps important one. The bill did receive approval of the House before, and I suppose it should now pass. However, I do want to make a couple of comments because of some criticism by the council in the city of Yellowknife. I hope the government will take into consideration these points at this time when the bill has almost passed the House.

The first point relates to the request by northerners regarding the Northern Canada Power Commission, that it establish its headquarters in the north. I hope that the commission will eventually be answerable to the councils

[Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).]

of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. It has been recommended that there be two power commissions, one for the Yukon territory and one for the Northwest Territories, with an operational headquarters in the north.

The other important recommendation is that the commission should have the sole right to generate and distribute electricity for the benefit of northerners, at the cheapest rate possible. The commission should seriously consider bringing power to small businesses and homes as cheaply as possible, with the larger companies such as those in the mining industry paying the full rate.

Several other points have been made. I hope the government will seriously consider moving toward implementing the wishes of the people of the north. I do not think I need say more on this bill, but I do hope the government will look again at the very important suggestions made by representatives of both territories regarding the splitting of the commission in two, with headquarters in the north.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, amendment read the second time and concurred in.

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#### JUDGES ACT AND CERTAIN ACTS RELATED TO THE SUPREME COURTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

##### AMENDMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED SALARIES AND ADDITIONAL JUDGES

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-47, to amend the Judges Act and certain other acts for related purposes and in respect of the reconstitution of the Supreme Courts of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order having to do with some of the details of these proposed motions. They would appear to have been drafted by someone who had before him at the time only a copy of Bill C-47 as it was passed at second reading and sent to the committee. The committee made several amendments and ordered a reprinting. We now have the reprinted form and that is what is before us.

I would draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, in particular to the (b) part of motion No. 1 where it says "by striking out line 1." That ought to be "line 3". In part (k), where it says "Eighteen judges of the Dis-", that should just be "Eighteen judges of the". In motion No. 2, where it says "by striking out line 12 on page 24", it should read "by striking out line 11 on page 24".

The same changes need to be made in the new recommendations from the Governor General, and there are one