

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: The report of the committee, leaving the section as it was, was approved by the House. The committee heard very full statements in reference to this matter. We had two distinguished deputy ministers before us, and I think they certainly would have liked to have reserved to them the right to make recommendations. I think they directed their remarks more particularly to the propriety of dealing with technical officials. The board, by a working arrangement, not under the Act, set up a scheme for choosing technical experts, which I think ought to work admirably. Everybody knows what that was, so I need not go into it.

I agree with my honourable friend from Sussex (Hon. Mr. Fowler) that if we are going to have this Civil Service Act, and we are committed to the principle of it, we cut at the very root of the Act if we make this amendment. If we find that the Act does not work well, we can go back to the old system of recommendations by the deputies. In any event, I think this method ought to be tried. The deputy must report to the Civil Service Commission when a vacancy occurs. The commission have an efficiency report, and an examination as well. If we are going to stick to the principle of the Act, I do not know why we should not adopt the method proposed. I am not going into the question of whether it is or is not the best method, but it is the method contemplated by the Civil Service Act, and I think we should give it a trial.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: If there is any one clause that we gave more attention to than another, I think it is this one. If the Civil Service Commission was appointed for any particular reason, I think it was because it was thought that this power should be taken out of the hands of the deputies. My experience is that a great deal of jealousy and hard feeling had been created throughout the departments because of the reasons mentioned by my honourable friend from Sussex. These men are bound to have their favourites. In the committee we came to an almost unanimous conclusion that this question should be left in the hands of the Civil Service Commission. Two deputies came before us, one of whom particularly felt that it should be within his power to select his own staff. It is not very long since a man holding a very important position resigned because he was not permitted to choose his own staff. He wanted to go further than merely to choose men for technical positions; he wanted to go all the way down to the stenographers and to be entirely

free from the commission. In the Department of Justice there may be some reason why this rule should be varied; but if it is varied where are you going to draw the line between one deputy and another? I am very much in favour of the Bill being passed as it came from the committee. I believe that nothing else will satisfy the Civil Service, and, after all, that is what we are trying to do.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Unless any honourable gentleman desires that we should take a vote, we will go on.

Hon. Mr. POWER: We may as well vote on it. There is just one observation that I should like to make. It has been claimed that the committee were unanimous in connection with this matter. We are not supposed to tell what took place in the committee, but one may say this. For one, I was in favour of the amendment which has been submitted by the leader of the House, and I think the honourable gentleman who acted as chairman of the committee, and who showed the greatest patience in dealing with this Bill, will agree with me when I say that the committee had been sitting for, I think, three days, holding two and sometimes three sittings a day, and that by the time we got to this recommendation with respect to the deputy ministers, which was the last amendment proposed, the members of the committee were all tired and fagged out and were not disposed to deliberate upon the matter, and the Bill went through as it was.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I did not say the committee was unanimous. It was almost unanimous. The honourable member from Halifax was a member of the committee, consequently it could not be unanimous.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: In order to take the sense of the House upon this question, I move that the following amendment be made:

On page 6, in line 18, insert the words "upon the recommendation of the deputy minister and" before the word "upon."

The committee divided on the amendment: yeas, 16; nays, 16.

The Hon. the CHAIRMAN: I declare the amendment lost, as it is not supported by a majority of the Committee.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: There is another amendment to be made which may be termed a consequential one. It seems that, in anticipation of the classification being put into force, certain appointments