

*Bankruptcy Act*

with three meetings a day of the house, and with the heavy volume of work yet to be done, attendance at extended meetings of committees is made difficult. If we are to do justice to this measure and are to conduct the detailed review of it that it seems to me the committee ought to conduct, a great deal of time will be required and a considerable concentration of sittings, the kind of concentration that may keep members in attendance at such committee meetings day in and day out so that the thread of discussion may not be lost. That concentration of sittings will be difficult at this belated stage of the session. I am just mentioning this matter, Mr. Speaker, because frankly at the moment I doubt whether before prorogation there will be time available to make the detailed review of this measure which its importance and complexity warrant and necessitate.

I am sure there will be the utmost disposition on the part of members of the house, regardless of party, to expedite the matter at this time; and in the committee I have no doubt that the members will do all they can to expedite consideration of the bill. I just want to say, though, that I doubt whether there is available in the present session sufficient time within which to make the review of the measure that I think the committee is obliged to undertake.

**Mr. Angus MacInnis (Vancouver East):** I rise, Mr. Speaker, merely to emphasize the point made by the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming). This bill is a lengthy one, and in the fifteen days or so that we are likely to be here I do not think it is possible to give to this bill the attention that it requires. It would be just as well for the government to state now that this is one of the measures they are going to leave over until the next session of parliament, unless we are to remain here and to carry on until the next session is called.

The point made by the hon. member for Eglinton I think is this. At this stage of the session there are so many things coming up all at once—and it was never more true than it is today, with about twenty-eight items on the order paper, each one of which is of importance—that almost all members will wish to be in the house during some part of the sittings. It is impossible for hon. members to be at the same time in the house and in committee on an important bill of this kind. As to those who are members of the committee it will not only take the time that they are in the committee but also time when they are outside of it, if they are to give the necessary study to matters relating to the bill. I suggest to the minister that rather than taking up the time of the house the government

[Mr. Fleming.]

might well set this matter aside until the next session and refer it to the committee as soon as parliament opens.

**Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Leithbridge):** I rise, Mr. Speaker, to associate myself with the words of the hon. member (Mr. MacInnis) who has just taken his seat. It is my impression that the government has committed a serious blunder this session in endeavouring to bring on too many measures of great importance. I should like to request that the minister hold this bill over until the next session. While he is at it, may I suggest that he ask the government to look around for as many more of these bills as could similarly be held over. We cannot cover all these bills if we are to give to them the attention which a house such as this ought to give to them. I have no desire to hold up the business of the house, but as a member of parliament I feel ashamed of myself when I agree, either by actually acting or by not acting, to allow important measures to pass without receiving the attention which I believe their importance warrants.

**Mr. W. F. Carroll (Inverness-Richmond):** I was going to ask the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) if there is any real hurry about having this act amended. If there is not, I agree with hon. members who have suggested that the bill should be held over until the next session of parliament. In my opinion the Bankruptcy Act is the most important one we have on the statute books of this country, inasmuch as it deals not only with bankruptcy itself but with the regulation of business transactions. Unless the members of the committee to which this bill goes are fairly familiar with the Bankruptcy Act as it is at the present time, it will take them at least a solid month of hard work to do justice to the consolidation of this act.

More than that job will come before this committee. I can see that the committee will have to deal with various amendments and delays will inevitably result.

I am not objecting at all to the second reading of the bill, or to the matter going to a committee. But it would be difficult to have the bill reported back to the house this session after full consideration by the committee to which it is to be referred. I should think there would be little time for the committee to deal effectively and efficiently with a consolidation such as this.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the minister speaks now, he will close the debate.

**Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice):** I find myself in agreement, Mr. Speaker, with nearly all the views which have been expressed by those who have taken part in