

AGRICULTURAL PRICES SUPPORT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of Bill 392, an Act to amend the Agricultural Prices Support Act.

He said: Honourable senators, as this bill involves certain technical points, I intend to avail myself of the legal talents of the honourable senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden). I am sure that he can explain the bill better than I could.

Hon. SALTER A. HAYDEN: Honourable senators, the Agricultural Prices Support Act was passed in 1944. Section 9 provided for the powers of the board.

Section 12 provided that a proclamation of the Governor in Council would fix the date when section 9 was to come into force and the time that it should remain in force. A proclamation issued on the 1st of April, 1946, brought section 9 into force for a period of two years from that date. When the two-year period expired, on the 31st of March, 1948, the government endeavoured to have section 9 continued in force by a further order in council, but it was found that this could not be legally done. Hence we have this bill, which says that section 9 of the Act shall be deemed to have continued in force from the 31st day of March, 1948, until the date that this bill becomes law, and shall continue in force thereafter for such further period as may be proclaimed by the Governor in Council.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the third reading of the bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time and passed.

CIVILIAN WAR PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of Bill 393, an Act to amend the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act.

He said: Honourable senators, this short bill arises out of recommendations of the House of Commons Committee on Veterans Affairs. Its effect is to remove the time limit for applications for pensions by dependents of certain merchant seamen, salt-water fishermen and Royal Air Force Transport Command personnel killed during the war. Owing to lack of knowledge of their rights, or for some other

reason, a small number of those dependents who were eligible for pensions under the Act failed to make application within the prescribed time limit of one year. It is felt that they ought not to be excluded from the benefits of the Act on this account, and the bill aims at rectifying this situation.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the third reading of the bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of Bill 394, an Act to amend the Department of National Defence Act.

He said: Honourable senators, the purpose of this bill is to release from the Consolidated Revenue Fund certain amounts of money contributed during the war to contingents of the Canadian Officer Training Corps by their members, through assignment of pay and otherwise, and by the public. I am advised that approximately 3 per cent of the money came from the revenue of canteens operated by the Reserve Force of the corps. The contingents were established at universities and other educational institutions, and the money was contributed for such purposes as memorial scholarships and bursaries.

Under the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act these sums would now be considered public moneys and, without statutory authority from parliament, could not be used for the purposes for which they were subscribed. The bill merely seeks authorization to use the funds as intended. The total amount involved is \$317,895.

Hon. Mr. WHITE: I am not sure that I heard what the honourable gentleman said about the 3 per cent from canteen funds. Does that go into the general canteen fund?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I am glad my honourable friend asked about that. Provision was made last year for administration of the canteen funds of the Active Forces, but the relatively small amount of canteen funds that we are concerned with here belongs to the Reserve Force, and the department takes the view that it could not legally be administered as if it were part of the general canteen fund.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.