

*Government Organization Act, 1970*

be a private member's motion. Under those circumstances it would take its place somewhere toward the end of the list, so we might wait for a long time.

I do not think, however, that there is very much difference between us. I give my understanding that I will look seriously, and so will my colleagues, at what the minister has had to say and at his resolution. I urge him to look also with care and seriousness at the amendment we offered, trying to look at it from the point of view of those who will have to carry the burden of having to establish a case in some way or other by a negative resolution, which will be a difficult problem. The difference between us is not that great and I hope that the minister between now and when we come back to the bill will have an opportunity to do as I urge.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Chairman, I wish to say a word on the amendment which the President of the Treasury Board suggested the government would like to make to subclause 3 on page 12 of the bill. I say to him that from the contacts I have had with a number of public servants an amendment of this order will be very welcome, and even though the committee of the whole has already passed clause 27, I trust that the necessary consent will be given so that the amendment can be made. If that consent is not given, I shall offer my services to the minister to try to find some other way in which to do it.

However, there are two points that I would like to make. I gather the minister is making this announcement now so that those affected will know that this provision will apply not only to those who may be dismissed at the end of April but to public servants who may voluntarily decide to withdraw at the end of April. The minister is looking at me in a way I do not quite understand.

**Mr. Drury:** It is I who do not quite understand.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The minister said that what made this kind of amendment necessary was that certain people will be dismissed at Rivers and Gimli as of the end of April, but the provisions of the early retirement are available two ways, to those who are dismissed and to those who on their own initiative decide to retire. There are certain people who in anticipation of this bill are planning to retire and pursue other activities. I would just like him to be clear that the right of people who are in service on April 30, whether they are fired or leave voluntarily will be covered by this amendment.

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is much more of an expert in this than I am, so I hesitate, without grasping clearly what he is getting at, to make what appears to be a categorical statement. But let me say that what we hoped to do here was to cover by the passage of this bill prior to April 30 those whose jobs were in effect disappearing at Gimli and Rivers. Because of the non-passage of the bill, it is necessary to make an amendment which will neither extend nor restrict the provisions of the bill as they now stand. It will not make it applicable

[Mr. Baldwin.]

to either a greater or a lesser group but to all those who are contemplated here had we passed the bill today.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I think that covers it, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure that when the officials in the department get at this they will make sure that the wording of the amendment which the minister will bring in will cover it. I know I am an old hand at nit-picking, but may I raise one other point. The minister referred to people who leave the service after April 30. I hope he meant "on or after April 30". In fact, let the amendment be drawn in such a way that there is no problem concerning people who leave at the end of April 30. That kind of problem does crop up. When you start talking about the month of May, someone who put in time on April 30 might not be covered. I am sure the minister knows what he wants to do and I just ask that the wording of this amendment covers those whom he intends to cover.

**Mr. Drury:** If you had passed the bill today, we would have no problem.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Richard):** Shall I rise, report progress and request leave to sit again at the next sitting of the House?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Progress reported.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to call any other government business between now and the time we will be summoned for royal assent. So if it is agreeable we could suspend the sitting until that time.

**Mr. Speaker:** The suggestion is that we suspend the sitting until the call of the bell. If there is no objection, I will leave the chair. However, before doing so I would remind hon. members that according to well-established practice and tradition, hon. members are invited to join me in room 16 when we return from the other place.

At 5.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

• (5:50 p.m.)

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 5.50 p.m.

## THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.