

Railway at the time of the formation of the C.N.R. No large outlay of money was made, though it is true fairly large contributions were made later over a period of time.

Much of the government's contribution when the Grand Trunk Railway was taken over took the form of an assumption of responsibility for stock. In addition, large grants of land were made. Thus the government of the day was able to take over and finance the Canadian National Railway without spending large sums of money. I suggest that this amendment in its present form does not really call for the spending of money since it does not suggest how money should be spent, if it is to be spent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is the considered opinion of the Chair that if the second part of this amendment were carried out there would be a financial obligation on the Crown. I would point out to the hon. member that in the explanatory notes to the bill the following statement appears in the first sentences:

The purpose of this bill is to divide each of the 40,000,000 authorized shares of the par value of \$5.00 each of the capital stock of the company into five shares of the par value of \$1.00 each.

In other words, the principle of the bill is a division of shares. May I quote from citation 203 (1), page 171 of Beauchesne, fourth edition.

It is an imperative rule that every amendment must be relevant to the question on which the amendment is proposed.

I would also draw attention to what is said on page 527 of May, seventeenth edition.

The principle of relevancy in an amendment governs every such motion. The amendment must "strictly relate to the bill which the House, by its order, has resolved upon considering"—

In the case now before us the house is resolved upon considering the dividing of the shares of this particular company. The second part of the hon. member's amendment is not relevant to that principle. I therefore rule the amendment out of order.

Mr. Scott: May I call it seven o'clock?

● (7:00 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being seven o'clock, the hour for private members' business has expired and the house will resume the business that was interrupted at six o'clock.

23033—159

Bank Act

BANK ACT AND QUEBEC SAVINGS BANKS ACT

EXTENSION OF CHARTERS TO
DECEMBER 1, 1966

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp for the second reading of Bill No. C-3, to amend the Bank Act and the Quebec Savings Banks Act.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I am rising again on the question of privilege that was raised before the house went on to consider private members' business, and before discussion began on the Bank Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Before the proceedings were interrupted at six o'clock did not the Minister of Finance have the floor?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker. I had concluded my remarks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Yukon.

Mr. Nielsen: I hope someone will inform the Minister of Justice (Mr. Cardin) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) that this matter is being discussed, since neither of them are in their seats at the moment. I am doing this because of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker), was absent from the city and absent from the house when comments were made outside the house reflecting on his conduct as prime minister and because of the comments made this afternoon in the house.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair is in some doubt as to what is the point of privilege being raised by the hon. member for Yukon. Does it deal with the bill before the house at the moment?

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I am availing myself of the first opportunity to raise a point of privilege which has not been raised specifically this afternoon, or this day, with respect to the Leader of the Opposition. He being absent I intend to raise this question of privilege not only on his behalf but because it affects the privileges of all members of the house. This being the first available opportunity to raise it, I propose to put it to you now, sir.

The Minister of Justice this afternoon made a statement not only—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Before the hon. gentleman goes too far perhaps he would state what his point of personal privilege is.