

cate of qualification from the commission, if his appointment requires examination. So the matter rests in this way. The position of Speaker here is very much the same as the minister of a department. The minister's appointment would not be the subject of reference to a committee. The responsibility of making the appointment is on the head of the department, and he can make the inquiries which are necessary as to the qualifications of those filling the minor appointments, and the responsibility is on him that that shall be done. It seems to me, while I would like the matter to stand over until to-morrow for consideration, we would make a mistake to refer it to a committee for consideration. It practically comes to this: The Speaker must take the responsibility of submitting appointments that he is sure the Senate will adopt.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY.—The Senate take the place of the Governor in Council, and the Speaker makes his report to the Senate the same as a minister would make it to the Governor in Council.

The SPEAKER.—Minor appointments.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER.—This being a new departure, what action we are going to take will be a precedent, and we should move slowly. Taking up the view of the hon. the Speaker that the Speaker of the Senate is empowered in the same manner as a minister of a department, and that the report may not be submitted to the Internal Economy Committee, I beg to offer an objection, which may not be serious. It is this, that before a recommendation made by a minister of the Crown is accepted it goes to His Excellency the Governor General and is submitted to the Privy Councillors. Proceeding in a similar way and in order to protect our Speaker whose recommendations may not be accepted, I would give him the same safeguard as the ministers respectively have in their own departments, the Privy Council, or what is equivalent to the Privy Council, the Internal Economy Committee. The recommendation of a minister is handed to His Excellency. It has to pass through the Privy Council, and so when the recommendation of our Speaker comes before us it has passed by the proper channel in to the hands of the Internal Economy

The SPEAKER.

Committee, and is approved and recommended by them. This is a mere suggestion, but it may be worth while taking it into consideration.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT.—It seems to me, on reading the section referred to, that neither the House nor the Committee on Internal Economy have anything to consider. We have deprived ourselves of that privilege or function, because by subsection 2 of section 3 of the Act, so much of this Act as relates to appointments and promotions shall apply to the officials of both Houses of parliament. I take it that under section 22, when the deputy head has made a recommendation to the head of the department, who, in a sense, is the Speaker, that is the end of it. The Governor in Council upon that recommendation makes the appointment without any reference to this House or any committee of this House.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I think clause 45 is the one which governs. It says :

Whenever under sections 5, 8 and 10, 21 and 22 of this Act, or under the Civil Service Act, any action authorized or directed to be taken by the Governor in Council, or by order in council, such action in respect to the officers of the House of Commons or the Senate shall be taken by the House of Commons or the Senate as the case may be by resolution.

So the Senate is substituted for the Governor in Council.

Hon. Mr. POWER—If the House will pardon me for saying a word on this matter—because this discussion is quite irregular, this being a notice of motion. The natural course would be that any action dealing with the staff of the Senate should originate with the Committee on Internal Economy. That committee report, and then, if their report meets with approval, the Speaker, as representing the House, makes the recommendation under the Act. I think that practically would be the best way to carry out the Act. I am not raising any question now as to the action of His Honour the Speaker in this particular matter. This vacancy was one which existed at the opening of parliament, and it was desirable that those additional pages should be appointed at once, and his Honour the Speaker has acted under the Act; but in future, in