

Admiralty Act

appointment of not more than three deputy judges for each admiralty district. As hon. members may know, representations have been made to them and have been made to me that there has been an increase in admiralty work, particularly in areas such as British Columbia, Toronto and Quebec city. It is for these areas particularly, that deputy judges in admiralty districts are proposed. The bill generally covers all admiralty districts, although it is not necessary to name the deputy judges immediately.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): May I ask the minister how many admiralty districts we now have?

An hon. Member: I think it is six.

Mr. Cardin: I wonder whether I could answer that later?

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I think there are eight districts now. What we are doing here through this measure is authorizing the appointment of 24 deputy judges. My understanding is that the present situation is that for each of the admiralty districts there is a district judge and that the district judge now has the right, where the necessity arises, to himself nominate a deputy judge.

I assume that this legislation is taking that authority away from the district judge and vesting it in the Governor in Council. Perhaps the minister would be prepared to indicate how many of the 24 judges now being authorized for appointment it is intended in fact to appoint, what the anticipated salaries of those deputy judges will be and whether it will be a fixed annual stipend or will be in accordance with the work which they may do from time to time.

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, I suggest it is not correct to say that this legislation is taking away from the district judge in admiralty the capacity of naming a deputy judge. This power remains with the district judge in admiralty. The power the district judge now has is to appoint one deputy judge. What we are trying to do is to give him power to name two but not more than three judges in areas where that is necessary, which as I have indicated would particularly include British Columbia, Toronto and Quebec city. So far as the remuneration of these deputy judges is concerned, may I point out that deputy judges are not remunerated by the government but usually are paid fees, as I understand it.

[Mr. Cardin.]

• (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Barnett: Can the minister explain what is involved in the portion of the resolution which states that a certain change is proposed in the administration of the act? This seems to involve more than the authorization to appoint additional judges. Can the minister give us some idea of what is intended?

Mr. Cardin: I suggest we might do better to wait until the bill is before us before considering this point.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Cardin thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-161, to amend the Admiralty Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read the second time?

Mr. Knowles: Now, by leave.

Mr. Cardin moved the second reading of the bill.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I raised a question while we were on the resolution stage and the minister suggested we might consider it when we had the bill before us. We have given the bill first reading and a motion for second reading has been made but I have yet to see the bill. I am wondering where I can get a copy.

Mr. Turner: The copies are here.

Mr. Barnett: I now have the bill before me. This completes my remarks on second reading.

An hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Batten in the chair.

On clause 1—*Appointment of Deputy Judges.*

Mr. Barnett: Would the minister care to explain now what is involved in these administrative changes?

Mr. Cardin: They are very minor changes. Under the present act the district judge in an Admiralty Court can nominate one deputy judge. The present bill contemplates giving him permission to nominate two or not more than three deputy judges so as to enable