

because it might lead to failure to apprehend persons seriously offending against the Act or regulations. The administration of this Act is entrusted to the Minister of Justice, and it is thought desirable that his approval should be secured before any conviction is obtained for contravention of the Act or the regulations. My hon. friend from Russell (Mr. Murphy) and my hon. friend from Moosejaw (Mr. Knowles) have described a situation which I would not think likely to arise. In case of a prosecution under this Act, that would happen? Immediately after the man was apprehended or the summons served upon him, as the case may be, the persons undertaking the prosecution would request the approval of the Minister of Justice, which would be given or withheld at once. There could not be any delay such as my hon. friend from Russell has described, because the proceedings against any person apprehended must go on according to the provisions of the Summary Convictions Act or the other enactments governing such cases, and it would not be possible to hold people in prison for a long time while the Minister of Justice was deliberating as to whether or not his approval should be given. It seems to me the provision is an eminently reasonable one, having regard to the fact that it requires the approval of the minister to whom is entrusted the duty of administering the provisions of the Act.

Mr. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: Under this motion it is not competent for an hon. member to address the House more than once. I have relaxed the rule in the case of the Prime Minister, for the reason that in the absence of the Minister of Justice it seemed reasonable that some explanation should be forthcoming.

Amendments concurred in.

#### SUPPLY.

House again in Committee of Supply, Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

Civil Government—Office of the Governor General's Secretary. To provide for the promotion of John Guy, to doorkeeper and principal orderly, \$1,000.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: This is merely to carry out the provisions of an Act passed at the present session with regard to the increase of salaries of men in the lower grades of service. Mr. Guy has been doorkeeper for a long time, and is entitled to the promotion.

[Sir Robert Borden.]

Privy Council Office—To provide for the promotion of Arthur W. Merriam from Third Division, Subdivision A, to Second Division, Subdivision B, at his present salary, \$1,150.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: This does not involve any increase in expense at the present time. Mr. Merriam has been in the Third Division, Subdivision A, for six years. He is a very efficient official and is entrusted with fairly important duties. I thought it was only reasonable to give him promotion at this time.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Is the increase \$1,150?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: No, there is no increase in salary at all.

Mr. MURPHY: I have no objection to the promotions provided for in those two items, but in view of the statement made by the Prime Minister that they are to give effect to the provisions of some legislation introduced earlier in the session—

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Not this one. The previous one was.

Mr. MURPHY: It strikes me that the two gentlemen here provided for seem to be singled out for attention, while a great many others in the lower subdivisions of the Civil Service, whose cases were brought to the attention of the House when the Civil Service Act was under consideration, have been overlooked. There are men in the lowest division who, by reason of the application of the Civil Service Act and their inability to obtain the certificate provided for under the regulations, have been stranded—marooned, so to speak. They have reached the maximum of their class and are unable to obtain further advancement. There are several hundreds of such employees, some of them in the Post Office Department, some of them in the Customs or other departments. There are anomalies presented in those departments of men being in charge of a room who are in lower grades than their subordinates. It seems to me if there was a provision made in the estimates for the relief of any of the civil servants receiving small salaries and discharging important duties, it should apply to this class of men.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend will observe that item 411 provides a general vote for a number of them.

Mr. MURPHY: Yes, I noticed that. Perhaps we will have an explanation as to