

Private Bills—Divorce

not think the meaning of the words, "otherwise opposed to its progress" can be interpreted as bringing in such a wide amendment as this.

The citation continues:

—or seeking further information in relation to the bill by committees, commissioners, the production of papers or other evidence or the opinion of judges.

I do not see how this amendment comes within the provisions of citation 657.

If I recall correctly, those who contended that the motion was in order based their contention first upon the fact that similar amendments have been allowed in the past. I have stated my position in regard to that point. The other contention was that it came within the provisions of citation 657, and as I have stated I do not think it comes within the provisions of that citation. The motion seems to be a negative one. It is stated in the motion that the house should not give second reading to the bill until the house has had an opportunity to discuss alternative methods of dealing with this divorce application. I do not know when, if ever, and I do not think any hon. member knows when, if ever, the house will have an opportunity to discuss alternative methods of dealing with this divorce application.

The suggestion is that the second reading should be held up until a situation does happen which may never happen. I doubt whether it would be in order to hold up the bill under that circumstance.

The other point which has been raised by the Prime Minister is that this amendment proposes to hold up the second reading of the bill until the house has had an opportunity to discuss alternative methods of dealing with this—I emphasize the word "this"—divorce application. Our rules do not provide for any other method of dealing with this divorce application. Under all the circumstances I cannot allow the amendment to stand. Is the house ready for the question?

Motion (Mr. Winkler) agreed to.

Mr. Coldwell: On division.

Motion agreed to on division and bill read the second time.

JEAN MARIE WEEKS OPZOOMER

Mr. H. W. Winkler (Lisgar) moved the second reading of Bill No. 34, for the relief of Jean Marie Weeks Opzoomer.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Mr. Gagnon: On division.

Mr. Coldwell: On division.

Motion agreed to on division and bill read the second time.

MARGARET ELIZABETH STRANGE COLTON

Mr. H. W. Winkler (Lisgar) moved the second reading of Bill No. 37, for the relief of Margaret Elizabeth Strange Colton.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the other two bills that have been given second reading are bills in connection with which the evidence had been distributed. We come now to the first of a large number of bills up for second reading today in connection with which we do not have the evidence. I might point out that when we started this afternoon there were 111 divorce bills on the order paper for second reading. Forty of those are bills in connection with which the evidence has been distributed, leaving 71 in connection with which we do not have the evidence. I wonder whether the hon. member for Lisgar, who is sponsoring these bills, is in his mood of last Friday night or in his mood of last Tuesday night. I wonder whether he might consider allowing the 71, in connection with which we do not have the evidence, to stand?

Mr. Winkler: I agree to let them stand.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Lisgar has consented. Does the house consent to the applications for divorce in connection with which the evidence has been distributed being read collectively at this time?

Mr. Coldwell: Not collectively.

Mr. Knowles: I think what the hon. member said was, he was prepared to let the 71 stand.

Mr. Speaker: I did not follow him.

Mr. Howe: Let us take them one by one as they come.

Mr. Speaker: Let us settle one point at a time. Is it agreed that the bills in connection with which the evidence has not been distributed shall stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed. Is it also agreed that the bills in connection with which the evidence has been distributed shall be read collectively?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: If I have the numbers I will put the motion.

Mr. Knowles: Do I have to go to bat again? In addition to the two that have already been read, Mr. Speaker, the bills in connection with which the evidence is in our hands are the