

Small Loans Act

Similarly, the headnote on page 459 reads as follows:

A bill designed to furnish machinery, for the expenditure of a certain sum of public money to be voted subsequently by parliament, may be introduced in the house without the recommendation of the crown and without a resolution being first considered in committee.

The point of order has been raised without any warning, as the minister sometimes says to us, so that I have not had the opportunity to search through all the notes I have on the point. However, I have studied this matter rather thoroughly on other occasions and it seems to me that Your Honour should consider whether or not the bill introduced by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Poulin) does not come in the category set out by Mr. Speaker Sproule, in that it merely confers upon the government a power for the exercise of which public money might have to be voted later. Surely those two phases are separate. In fact, there have been government bills, which I am sure I could turn up if I had a moment in which to do so, where the same thing develops; that is, where the bills in themselves do not direct an immediate expenditure of money but such money is voted later by parliament. It is an important point. I think the Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris) would agree with me that Your Honour should not be called upon to rule at the moment but should be given time to consider the matter.

Mr. Speaker: I shall be pleased to look into the matter further.

Mr. Thatcher: Mr. Speaker, if you are going to wait until another day to make your decision, I wonder whether I could move the adjournment of this debate. I should like to speak on the subject but there are only two or three minutes left until six o'clock. Therefore, could I make that motion?

On motion of Mr. Thatcher the debate was adjourned.

SMALL LOANS ACT**AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR A REDUCTION
IN RATE OF INTEREST**

The house resumed, from Friday, February 3, consideration of the motion of Mr. Argue for the second reading of Bill No. 3, to amend the Small Loans Act.

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I understood from the sponsor of this bill that, when it was called next, he would drop it having in mind the fact that I have on the order paper a similar bill.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue) does not happen to

[Mr. Knowles.]

be here at the moment. I certainly do not think anyone else should be asked to speak for him. May I ask the Minister of Finance why he wants this bill to be dropped?

Mr. Harris: It was not that I asked that it should be dropped, but in private conversation with the sponsor of this bill my understanding was that he was agreeable to doing so, having in mind the fact that my bill would go forward to second reading and then to the banking and commerce committee. I may be improperly reporting him, but that was my understanding several weeks ago.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, the same hon. member, in private conversation with me, asked whether it was really necessary for his bill to be dropped in order that the government bill be proceeded with. It seems to me that the order of priorities which is set out somewhere in the authorities gives priority to a government bill over a private member's bill. I see no need for my hon. friend's bill to be withdrawn in order that the minister's bill may be proceeded with.

Mr. Harris: I have not the slightest objection. I am only reporting my understanding.

Mr. Knowles: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Unless there is unanimous agreement that we do not proceed with the resumption of this debate, I just cannot let it stand. You do not let stand the order for the resumption of a debate. I had occasion to say that before. If there is unanimous agreement that we do not proceed, we might be saved by the bell if I speak for another minute.

Mr. Knowles: Carry on.

Some hon. Members: Six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Shall I call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING**ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS
AND SHIPPING OWNED, OPERATED AND
CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Marler:

That a sessional committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government be appointed to consider the accounts and estimates and bills relating thereto of the