

extend and apply to such boards, and other public bodies, officers, subjects, services and properties of the crown as may be designated or assigned to the minister by the governor in council over which the minister shall have the control, regulation, management and supervision.

Mr. ILSLEY: I am afraid I cannot accept that amendment, worded as it is. If there were any demand for such an amendment it could be accepted in different terms, but I submit that no amendment is necessary. Some of the orders do contain provisions that the boards shall be subject to the direction of the minister, but the minister is charged in every case with the responsibility of administering these orders. I submit that nothing would be gained by making any amendment, and I would prefer that no amendment be made. I think I should say that I have had some conversation with the hon. member for Vancouver North and I have explained my point of view. While I cannot say that it is agreeable to him, nevertheless I do not think he would be insistent upon the amendment being made in the light of the explanations that I have given him.

Amendment negatived.

Section 2 as amended agreed to.

On section 4—Orders and regulations may be revoked.

Mr. KNOWLES: The amendment which you have in your hand, Mr. Chairman, is recorded in *Hansard* of April 17 at page 2130. I would point out that the day after it was moved the Minister of Justice suggested an alternative wording. I should like to ask the consent of the committee to withdraw the amendment recorded on April 17, so that I can move the wording suggested by the minister.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Amendment withdrawn.

Mr. KNOWLES: I now move:

That section four of the act be amended by adding thereto the following:

Provided that notwithstanding anything in this section no provision of any order or regulation of the governor in council specified in the part of the schedule to this act entitled "wartime prices and trade board" shall be revoked by the governor in council unless addresses have been presented to the governor general by the Senate and the House of Commons praying that such provision be revoked.

In order to make the meaning of this amendment more clear, I should like to repeat the wording which I used before, which was as follows:

Provided, however, that none of the orders listed in the schedule to this act under the

[The Chairman.]

section headed wartime prices and trade board may be revoked without the consent of parliament.

The purpose of this amendment is to give parliament an opportunity to put a brake upon the government with respect to decontrol in the field of prices. It is clear that it is not possible to prohibit the government or the wartime prices and trade board from changing price ceilings and doing other things allowed under the provisions of the order, but some of us feel that it should be made clear that the whole price control structure should not be subject to revocation by the government without the consent of parliament. In other words, there are two matters at stake here. One is the supremacy of parliament over the government with respect to this matter, and the other is the attempt on the part of the house to make known its will to the government.

Speaking about this matter before, the Minister of Justice stated, quite correctly, that even if this amendment were to pass—and I appreciate his offer to put it to a free vote—it would still be possible for the wartime prices and trade board to scuttle most of this machinery and its effectiveness.

Mr. MERRITT: All of it.

Mr. KNOWLES: Yes, that is true, for all that this would require is that the order in council be kept on the statute books. It would have no legally binding effect, but it would have a moral effect. After all, in the relations between parliament and the government there is such a thing as good faith, and that is the basis of my amendment. I believe that if parliament passed this amendment, the government would recognize what it means and would feel bound to reconsider its attitude toward price decontrol.

If the need for slowing down price decontrol was ever demonstrated, it was demonstrated in this House of Commons within the last two days. The night before last we were told of tax reductions soon to take place; in fact the wording used suggested that there were to be "slashes" in income taxation. But when one looks into the matter he finds that a married man with a wife and two children earning \$150 a month will—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is referring to a debate during the present session on another subject.

Mr. KNOWLES: I am not quoting from any other debate. I am simply—