

Private Bills

Canada, and piled up in the pockets of various companies.

In speaking to the bill, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) listed some reasons to account for the two year delay. I was looking through the transcript of the proceedings of the Senate standing committee on banking and commerce for Wednesday, June 28 last, No. 6, and I noticed that different reasons were listed. For example, as reported on page 24 the president of the Principal group, Mr. D. M. Cormie, Q.C., said:

Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, I might just point out that the basis under which the original charter was granted has continued in force. I should like to run over the development of the group since the time of the granting of its original charter in 1965 for the life insurance company.

The Chairman: Does that development relate to the delay in completing the organization of this company?

Mr. Cormie: Partially.

The Chairman: Well, to the extent that it does, it is relevant.

Mr. Cormie: Well, we found in 1965, shortly after this charter was granted, that it was desirable to have a little tighter and neater organizational pattern in the group, so it was decided to organize in the same pattern as the Investors Group in Winnipeg with primarily a holding company that was at the same time a principal management company—

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I am a novice in the field but that is not the same reason.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, on a point of information, would the hon. member look at the reasons given by the mover in the Senate, which preceded the testimony given by Mr. Cormie? The hon. members of the Senate banking committee had already been given the reasons by Senator Cameron. These are additional reasons. Mr. Cormie's reasons are not being discounted at all.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): I see. I also noted the reason given on the following page where Mr. Cormie is reported as follows:

We have just introduced an I.B.M. 360 system, and the programming on this for the life insurance company is estimated by our accounting department to take from six to eight months.

So the period will run into next year.

One point which does puzzle me is that, as reported on page 23, Mr. Humphrys, the superintendent of insurance, said:

Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, I have very little to say about this bill. Its purpose is to extend the life of a bill that was adopted by parliament two years ago to incorporate this company, and under the provisions of the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, which is an

[Mr. Martin (Timmins).]

act of general application to insurance companies, it is provided that if a company is incorporated and does not become registered under the insurance act to transact business within two years, then its act expires. This company was incorporated in 1965, effective June 30, but the company was not able to get organized—

To my reckoning, Mr. Speaker, this bill is now null and void as of July 1 of this year. I do not know. Perhaps the introduction of the bill in the other place extended the life of the previous bill, but I should like to know what is the position. If the bill is dead, then why are we discussing it today?

Mr. Lambert: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, may I tell the hon. member that the petition to extend this bill was dated December, 1966, and I believe was filed in February, 1967, with the full consent and agreement of the superintendent of insurance. As a matter of fact, the procedure that was adopted was the procedure suggested by the superintendent of insurance.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Like my colleague from Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, I have no intention of holding up the bill but I did want the few points I have raised to receive some attention.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I receive with gratification the applause of the Postmaster General (Mr. Côté) and others at my recognition. I take it to mean that in anticipation of my remarks hon. members are endorsing them.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): I will not endorse them unless they make sense.

Mr. Howard: The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) pointed out that the purpose of this bill is simply to extend the deadline by which this company that is seeking to be incorporated can obtain its certificate, licence, or whatever the correct word is, from the Department of Insurance. It seeks to extend the life of the bill that was assented to on June 30, 1965, being chapter 21 of the statutes of that year, when the company was incorporated by parliament.

● (6:30 p.m.)

It might be interesting to note that the classes of insurance which the company has permission to sell are life insurance, personal accident insurance and sickness insurance. I mention that because, as the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) has said, the company is Canadian controlled. As I understand the Canadian and British Insurance