

that emergency? The emergency will disappear, as we all hope, and then there will be left on the statute books this permanent legislation which is absolutely not in conformity with the usual rules of parliamentary procedure.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) mentioned conditions in certain parts of the dominion as a reason for giving the government the power necessary to deal with the situation. During the last three years we have been pointing out to the house that these conditions would arise and suggesting that something should be done to meet them. I am convinced that we cannot meet this situation simply by increasing the military or police force of the country. A few days ago, in connection with the Unemployment and Farm Relief Bill, the direct relief, which is the only way in which the government intends to deal with that situation, was limited to a certain sum. Now we have a bill giving the government unlimited powers in regard to repressive measures that may be taken in meeting any situation that may arise on account of the difficulties in which the people find themselves. The house should insist that the government take some other means of dealing with economic conditions in this country than by increasing the military and police forces. This is no way to handle the situation which is confronting us and, if we continue it, the result will be disaster.

Sir EUGENE FISET (Rimouski): Over and above what my right hon. leader (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) have said, I wonder if the minister has given any thought to the fact that this legislation is creating a precedent for all departments because it is of a permanent nature. I well remember that in days past numerous deputations were received by deputy ministers and ministers of the crown trying to persuade the government to allow different departments to take out of consolidated revenue fund whatever moneys might have been credited by that department to the credit of the receiver general. Here we are creating a precedent for which I think there is no real reason. I think the minister and the government have sufficient power now under the relief bill to do all that they intend to do for the present year by this act, and I think that the minister and the government should pause before giving such extraordinary power to one department in a situation which is of a temporary character.

[Mr. Lapointe.]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, on division, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Cowan (Port Arthur-Thunder Bay) in the chair.

On section 1—Arrangements with local governments for the use of the force.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I have listened with great interest to the criticism offered by my right hon. friend and the member for Quebec East in regard to this section. When this bill was drafted, the peace, order and good government clause in the relief bill had not been proposed to the house. Now that it has been drawn to my attention that that clause does exist in the relief bill which has now been passed, I think perhaps that does obviate the necessity for this particular clause being put in this bill. The objection that that clause would be a permanent clause I think is a substantial one, but I should like clause 1 to stand for a short time until I have had an opportunity of consulting with one or two of my friends. My present view, however, is that under the circumstances it might be dropped.

Section 1 stands.

Sections 2 and 3 agreed to.

On section 4—Punishment of offences by non-commissioned officers and constables.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The former law by subsection 2 of section 31 provided for the reduction in rank of a non-commissioned officer who had been guilty of some offence, but it did not apply to constables. I am informed that we have three grades of constables, grade A, B and C, and the commissioner desires to make this clause apply to constables so that if a constable of grade A, for instance, has been found guilty of some offence he may be reduced. As the law now stands he could not be reduced. That is the only change.

Section agreed to.

Section 5 agreed to.

On section 6—Time served in South Africa may be included.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): If the government should find it necessary to increase the force, is there any body of men from which additional members could be recruited?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The officers are not recruited; they are promoted after they have been trained in the service. The recruiting of the force is done in the various district headquarters on application of the individual concerned to the officer in command at the nearest headquarters. The applicant is there examined, the examination being a severe