

Official Languages

Mr. Horner: Until when, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member will look at the Standing Order, he will see that that is in the discretion of the Chair. The suggestion was made this afternoon that there will be consultations between hon. members. Possibly all the votes could be taken together after we have considered the different amendments. This would be done for the convenience of hon. members, of course.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate have passed Bill S-21, an act to amend the Criminal Code, to which the concurrence of this House is desired. I also wish to inform the House that there is a message informing this House that the Senate have agreed to the amendment made by the House of Commons to Bill S-26, an Act to prohibit the Advertising, Sale and Importation of Hazardous Products, without any amendment.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

PROVISION RESPECTING STATUS AND USE—
APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER, ETC.—
REPORT STAGE

The house resumed consideration of Bill C-120, respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Special Committee on the Official Languages Bill.

Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Cardigan) moved:

That Bill C-120, An Act respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, be amended by deleting clauses 28, 29, and 30 thereof and substituting therefor the following:

"28. (1) An investigation by the Commissioner under this Act shall be conducted in private except as otherwise provided for in subsection (3).

(2) It is not necessary for the Commissioner to hold any hearing but he may allow any person or any department or other institution concerned in an investigation, and shall allow any person or any department or other institution complained against in the course of such investigation, to be represented by counsel.

(3) The Commissioner shall not make a report or recommendation in respect of any person, department or other institution so complained against until that person, department or other institution, as the case may be, has been given reasonable notice of the complaint and has been allowed full opportunity to be heard in public or

[Mr. Speaker.]

in private as that person, department or other institution may elect.

(4) Parliament may,

(a) of its own volition, or

(b) upon the recommendation of the Governor in Council, regulate the procedure to be followed by the Commissioner in the exercise of his powers and duties.

(5) The Commissioner may direct that information relating to any investigation under this Act be received or obtained, in whole or in part, by any officer of the Commissioner appointed as provided in section 21 and such officer shall, subject to such restrictions or limitations as the Commissioner may specify, have all the powers and duties of the Commissioner under this Act in relation to the receiving or obtaining of such information.

(6) The Commissioner shall require every person employed in his office who is directed by him to receive or obtain information relating to any investigation under this Act to comply with any security requirements applicable to, and to take any oath of secrecy required to be taken by, persons employed in any department or other institution concerned in the matter of the investigation.

(7) The Commissioner has, in relation to the carrying out of any investigation under this Act,

(a) the powers of a Commissioner under Part I of the Inquiries Act; and

(b) the power, subject to such limitations as the Governor in Council in the interests of defence or security may prescribe, to enter any premises occupied by any department or other institution of the Parliament or Government of Canada and carry out therein such inquiries within his authority under this Act as he sees fit."

He said: Mr. Speaker, in speaking on this amendment I shall repeat what I said on second reading of this bill. The bill itself is a purely administrative one. If you study it from clause 1 to clause 41 you will not escape the conclusion that the bill is of a purely administrative nature and lacks what is commonly known as legislative intent.

For a moment, I should like to refer to some provisions of the bill. In doing so, may I point out that all the powers contained in the bill are already possessed by the executive. Consider, for example, the power to issue and promulgate official instruments and documents bilingually. The executive already has that power. We must also consider in this category the power to provide bilingual services to the public. Those services already are being provided. Consider also, Mr. Speaker, the power to make agreements with a government of a province to proclaim the establishment of a bilingual district; the power to constitute Bilingual Districts Advisory Boards under part 1 of the Inquiries Act and to authorize a board to draft agreements with the governments of provinces. Consider also the power to establish an official languages commissioner. A commissioner can now be appointed under