

[Chairman: Mr. Schumacher] [5:34 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I see a quorum. I myself feel this is a little more comfortable than 8:30 this morning. I hope I haven't inconvenienced any members of the committee. We will try to be expeditious with our deliberations.

As you will recall, a week ago this evening we heard Mr. Denis Horne on behalf of the Maycroft Insurance Company Limited. In the meantime I have consulted various members of the committee from all sides. We are getting close to the end of our session, I believe. I don't know when that date is, but it could be any time. A problem with this petition is that the final advertising in the Alberta Gazette will not appear until Monday's issue. It has appeared in the August 31 issue, and of course it's been extensively advertised in the local press, which is probably more effective than the Alberta Gazette. The Alberta Gazette has fairly limited circulation. Nevertheless, it has had practically two weeks' exposure in the Alberta Gazette.

At this time I'd like to ask our Parliamentary Counsel whether there's been any sign of life from any member of the body politic relating to this Bill.

MR. M. CLEGG: Mr. Chairman, there have been no indications that there would be any intervenors or opponents on this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think all members of the committee have had the minutes of last week's meeting.

MR. M. CLEGG: Mr. Chairman, as last week's meeting was held in camera, you might wish to consider whether you wish to proceed in camera this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, that wasn't in camera.

Since that time I have spoken with Mr. Horne to clarify what practical effect this new company, if it were to go ahead, would have. He said that there would be a minimum of three new jobs created in the city of Edmonton and a substantial capital pool kept in this province instead of sending it off to New York, which I think is the basic principle.

A member or two mentioned to me, "Why

couldn't this applicant follow the rules?" Mrs. Hewes has agreed that maybe this session is a little unusual as far as timing is concerned. I personally feel -- I think she does too -- that we should try to accommodate people wherever we can. I guess the problem is whether we're prepared to waive the remaining advertising requirements.

MR. DOWNEY: I move that we waive the requirements and that we recommend the Bill to the Assembly.

MRS. HEWES: We have the jurisdiction to operate in that fashion, Mr. Clegg? We can in fact waive our rules? Or are there constraints on how and how far?

MR. M. CLEGG: Mr. Chairman, we can only make a recommendation to the Assembly that the rule be waived. That is our normal duty, to consider whether such a recommendation should be made. I just mention that the advertising will in fact be completed on September 15. That is their next insertion date, which is next Monday. Unless something very unlikely happens on Friday, by the time the Bill is passed into law, they will have finished their advertising.

MRS. HEWES: So the motion would be that we recommend that the rules be waived and that this be recommended to the Assembly?

MR. CHAIRMAN: And that the Bill be proceeded with.

MR. YOUNIE: Just one small question: is it reasonable for us to assume from the way things have transpired so far -- I assume from what was just said that some advertising has been done; they haven't just done it on a repeated basis as required?

MR. M. CLEGG: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Younie wasn't here when we mentioned that. The advertising in the newspaper, which is required to be once a week for three consecutive weeks, has been completed, and in fact they did it for four weeks. They are also required to advertise twice in the Alberta Gazette. They have done the first advertising, but the second one will only be published next Monday. So their default

is by a matter of a few days at this point.

MR. YOUNIE: So is it reasonable to assume that that last advertisement is not very likely under conceivable circumstances to turn up anything that the advertising they have done so far hasn't?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that's the basis.

MR. YOUNIE: In fact, it would be pretty well unreasonable to assume that anything might show up?

MR. WRIGHT: Just that the thousands of people who will be reading the Gazette next Monday will be deprived of the opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only the lawyers present have ever seen the Alberta Gazette. Any more discussion on the motion?

DR. WEST: These people that are presenting this of course will have to go through the Insurance Act, and then their financial statement and their credibility and means test will be applied at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I understand it, the Superintendent of Insurance has to examine their application, and they have to meet the requirements of the Insurance Act and the superintendent's rules. It's just like the trust company situation.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, if the money for this performance bond or equivalent has to go to the capitalists, it might as well go to homegrown ones instead of American ones. That's the view I take. So I'm all in favour of waiving it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further discussion? All in favour of the motion?

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Opposed? Carried.

Does anybody have any other business to bring up?

This may be our last meeting, and I want to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to Mr. Clegg and Nora and all the

members of the committee for their co-operation throughout. I've enjoyed being your chairman. I will share with you, though, that I'm going to try to make a few changes next session. [interjection] No, I don't have anything to say about that. What I'm going to suggest as your chairman is that as soon as a Bill is introduced and printed, it be referred to the appropriate cabinet minister. I've noticed an instance or two in this session where we've got people questioning things after our committee has dealt with them. I think that would be better procedure. Before we hold hearings, I'd personally like to hear what the government's point of view is on the legislation. They have a bureaucracy that to them [inaudible] that we probably don't have available. I don't know if there's any objection to that step. I'd like to hear it.

I again want to say that I've appreciated being your chairman, and I've enjoyed working with you.

DR. WEST: Just a clarification. On the Certified Management Consultants Act that we brought in, there was a letter that went round from, I think, the international association of municipal clerks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clegg has something to say on that.

DR. WEST: Could he comment on that, please?

MR. M. CLEGG: Mr. Chairman, the international association wrote to the chairman of the private bills committee. I reviewed their letter. It was based on a misinterpretation of the Bill. They felt that it gave the exclusive right to the use of the initials CMC, which is not true. It only gives the exclusive right to the use of the initials CMC connected with an implication that one is a member of the institute. They can only prevent people from using those initials if there is at the same time an express or implied holding out that they are members of that institute. There are people in this province who are members of the municipal clerks group, and there would be nothing to prevent them from continuing to use the CMC initials.

The second point which I would make to the committee for what it's worth is that the institute is a U.S. body which has no status or

recognition in this province at all. Nevertheless, of course, we should explain to them the comfort that their members here will not be prevented from using those initials.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there's nothing further, ladies and gentlemen, again thank you. I guess we'd better vote on that. All in favour of a motion to adjourn?

MR. MUSGROVE: So moved.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to compliment the chairman on his handling of the committee, if I may.

[The committee adjourned at 5:46 p.m.]

