

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Supplementary Order Paper

Thursday, 9 December 1982

OFFICIAL INFORMATION BILL

Proposed Amendments

DR CULLEN, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 6: To omit from paragraph (a) (lines 22 to 24 on page 10) all the words after the words "New Zealand" where they first occur.

MR NEILSON, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 6B: To omit paragraph (d) (lines 34 to 40 on page 10 and lines 1 to 8 on page 11) and substitute the following paragraph:

- (d) To damage seriously the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely changes in the Government's economic or financial policies relating to—
- (i) Exchange rates or the control of overseas exchange transactions:
 - (ii) The regulation of banking or credit:
 - (iii) Taxation:
 - (iv) The stability, control and adjustment of prices of goods and services, rents and other costs, and rates of wages, salaries, and other incomes:
 - (v) The borrowing of money by the Government of New Zealand:
 - (vi) The entering into of overseas trade agreements:

MR CAYGILL, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 6B: To omit this clause (lines 30 to 43 on page 11, and lines 1 to 18 on page 12) and substitute the following clause:

6B. Reasons for withholding information related to competitive commercial activities—(1) Where this section applies, good reason for withholding official information may exist, for the purposes of section 5 of this Act, if the withholding of that information is necessary for any of the purposes set out in subsection (2) of this section and the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations justifying in the public interest, the making available of that information.

(2) This section applies if, and only if, the making available of the information could reasonably be expected—

- (a) To prejudice significantly the competitive commercial activities of the Crown or any Department or any organisation or any subsidiary of any organisation;
- or

- (b) To interfere significantly with contractual or other negotiations related to the competitive commercial activities of the Crown or any Department or any organisation or any subsidiary of any organisation; or
- (c) To prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where—
 - (i) The information relates to competitive commercial activities; and
 - (ii) The information was supplied in confidence to the Crown or any Department or any organisation or any subsidiary of any organisation; and
 - (iii) It is in the public interest that similar information or information from the same source should continue to be supplied.

MR PALMER, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 7: To omit subclause (1) (lines 23 to 28 on page 13) and substitute the following subclause:

(1) Where this section applies, good reason for withholding official information may exist, for the purposes of section 3 of this Act, if the withholding of that information is necessary for any of the purposes set out in subsection (2) of this section and the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations justifying, in the public interest, the making available of that information.

FRAN WILDE, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 7: To omit subparagraph (ii) of subclause (2) (b) (lines 7 and 8 on page 14).

MR NEILSON, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 7: To omit paragraph (d) of subclause (2) (lines 11 and 12 on page 14).

FRAN WILDE, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 7: To omit paragraph (i) of subclause (2) (lines 34 to 37 on page 14).

MR PALMER, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 13: To insert in line 10 on page 17 after the words “as soon as reasonably practicable” the words “but in no case later than 28 days after the request is made”.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to narrow the exceptions to the presumption of disclosure contained in the Official Information Bill. In addition a time limit of 28 days is imposed within which requests for information must receive a response.