

# Supplementary Order Paper

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## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Thursday, the 26th Day of August 1954

### DEFAMATION BILL

#### *Proposed Amendments*

Hon. Mr WEBB, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

Clause 9: To add the following subclause:

(4) This section shall apply to actions for slander of title, slander of goods, or other malicious falsehood as it applies to actions for defamation; and references in this section to the same or substantially the same defamatory matter shall be construed accordingly.

Clause 15, subclause (3): To omit from paragraph (b) the words "which is not of public concern or the publication of which is not for the public benefit" in lines 30 to 32, and substitute the words "unless it is of public concern and the publication of it is for the public benefit".

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*Clause 9* provides for the consolidation, on the application of the defendants, of two or more actions for defamation by the same plaintiff. The amendment provides that the clause will apply also to actions for slander of title, slander of goods, or other malicious falsehood. The same extension of the corresponding United Kingdom provision was made by section 13 of the Defamation Act 1952 (U.K.).

The amendment to *clause 15 (3)* is a drafting amendment to make the meaning clearer by avoiding two negative statements and substituting two positive statements preceded by the word "unless".

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