hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands concerning the brief which the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac had prepared. I would simply like to add that so far as I could see any hon. member who attended the committee, whether as a regular member of the committee or otherwise, was given every opportunity to be heard.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Chairman, I see that several people agree to say that I refused to appear, but I will tell you that it is completely false, because when the list was full, and after I had said that I wanted to appear on that committee, my name was put back on the list and I was told that I would be notified when the time came. However, I was not. I did not insist on appearing either because I expected to be called at any time, but I was never called. That is why I say that they did not want to study my brief.

I had insisted on having my name put back on the list so that I might appear, but I was told that I would be heard when there was an opening and the time was right. But that time never came. Therefore, I never agreed not to appear and I can swear it here. I never said that I did not want to appear. I never said that. For the information of those who say otherwise, I say flatly that they could not be more wrong. I never told lies and I am not here to tell lies. Now, Mr. Chairman, let us change the subject. That matter is past and forgotten.

However, I asked one thing of the committee chairman and he gladly granted my request. I wanted my brief to appear at least in the Minutes of Proceedings; it appeared in No. 53, the last one. It has already been circulated and put at the disposal of the members of the committee when consideration of the Bank of Canada Act began. I am grateful to the chairman for having my brief printed and I am satisfied in that respect.

I would say, Mr. Chairman, that I felt some embarrassment and concern at finding myself alone quite often to defend my point of view. Those documents are now before the public. You can read them, study them, and anyone at all can judge them and appreciate or reject them. But they are there before the people, and none has the right to ignore them when it is a question of making laws, of revising the Bank of Canada Act and legislation concerning the Canadian chartered banks, or when the other Canadian finance companies, the credit unions or all the other near banks are concerned.

• (6:00 p.m.)

Mr. Chairman, at this occasion, carrying out my official mandate in the eyes of my electorate and of the whole Canadian people, I was conscious of doing quite simply my duty as a member of Parliament, and I still intend to do all I possibly can in this house. I am here before you because I am a representative of the people. I said several times to one of the members of the committee and even to the chairman that I represent the people of Canada, of my riding and my province even more than those concerned with high finance. I also represent the world of high finance, but I was elected and delegated by the people of Canada, who have needs and want improvements, who want to live and have a right to live. I defended those who elected me to office, at the same time respecting the law and the rules which I certainly do not intend to break, for I do not want to destroy anything, nor to humiliate anyone. And so, I want to be respectful of all that has been done but, while trying to be as human as possible, I want to respect and keep what has been well done.

I also want to commend all those who did their job. They deserve congratulations, they should be commended, because our predecessors accomplished good things and have not made too many blunders. A lot of good things have been accomplished, as evidenced by the economy which has finally picked up, across Canada.

But certain things have to be corrected. Let the economy roll along, but efforts should be made, however, to lower public debts, to relieve the people, not tax them to the hilt, in short, stop the public debt from increasing to such the extent that people go bankrupt. At the present time, the federal government is on the brink of bankruptcy, as well as provincial governments, municipal governments and school boards, and individuals go bankrupt, but nobody cares. In the province of Quebec, there has never been so many bankruptcies under the present system, and the same thing must be happening in the other provinces.

And some will say that there is no room for improvement, they will try to ridicule those who are speaking up, who want to improve the situation, who want to reform the economic system to stop the wave of bankruptcies, to stop debts from sky-rocketing, taxes from soaring high; high taxes are threatening to crush the people and rouse them to revolt. I