

Bank Act

sively the small entrepreneur who gets the short end of the stick.

When one studies the Bank Act that is before the House today, one finds that things have not changed very much; that the consumer is still not adequately protected and that the small business sector will still not receive the support and service from the banking community that it so justly deserves.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pierre Deniger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State, Multiculturalism): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say how glad I am this afternoon to take part in the debate on Bill C-6 because the banking legislation is certainly one of the basic statutes of any country. I want to echo the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) and say how much I appreciated my experience in committee. As a young member who did not enjoy the opportunity of sitting on the various commissions which studied the banking legislation, I learned a lot from the questions, debates and discussions the member for Edmonton West had with the various witnesses and with the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussières). Mr. Speaker, as a newcomer in the House who happens to be interested in our country's financial and economic affairs I have indeed gained a lot of experience during the endless hours we spent on Bill C-6, the Bank Act.

As a parliamentarian I am reassured by my experience with Bill C-6 because when we were returned to power last February many people thought that hon. members, at least on this side of the House, would simply rubber-stamp Bill C-6. People were telling us that every aspect of Bill C-6 had been discussed for years and years and that in fact we had nothing to do except endorse it blindly. Mr. Speaker, as a member I was really reassured to see to what extent a committee such as the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs could be non-partisan and so efficient. In light of the very challenging representations made by my colleague from Mississauga South, the hon. member for Edmonton West, the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae) and all the others, I can say that in all the experiences I had since being elected never did a committee seem to me so useful and so efficient. Mr. Speaker, that, of course, does not rule out the ideological quarrels we may have within a committee. I think that the previous speaker made an ideological speech with which I cannot agree of course, but I can certainly admire the conduct of the Minister of State for Finance who did go to the trouble of listening to and approving several amendments, whether from the hon. member for Mississauga South, from the hon. member for Edmonton West or even from myself, Mr. Speaker. That is indeed what the parliamentary system is all about. The member for Edmonton West said a moment ago that perhaps the best solution for Parliament might be to reduce the number of members. If that were the case, obviously I would probably not be here because mine is a new riding.

So I cannot really endorse that suggestion but I can say, however, that if we had more committees like the finance, trade and economic affairs committee I think the House of Commons and Parliament would be enhanced.

I was particularly active in the debate on the question of car leasing to which the Minister of State for Finance referred and I must say how disappointed I was by the attitude of the Canadian Bankers' Association which, as the hon. member for Edmonton West so aptly put it, took offence because it did not succeed in obtaining everything it wanted. Mr. Speaker, in the society in which we live and given our role as parliamentarians, I think that when people express their concerns and make representations they have the right to do so and that is exactly what we have done as members of Parliament. Some people did come to see me and told me their worries. I listened to their stories, I heard the arguments of the bankers and I thought advisable to suggest to the Minister of State for Finance certain amendments about the car leasing provisions.

All members of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs agreed with those amendments. Then the Minister of State for Finance, with the support of the committee members, was successful in convincing cabinet so that we now have amendments which I feel certain will be approved by members on both sides of the House. I find that reassuring, Mr. Speaker. Indeed I believe we are doing an efficient job as parliamentarians and I felt somewhat slighted and insulted when I read in *The Globe and Mail* of October 28, 1980, that what matters most for a committee in reaching a final decision is the effort made by lobbyists.

● (1450)

Well, Mr. Speaker, what can I say? When someone has a worthy cause to defend I am not influenced by the fact that I may or may not have to face lobbyists. Nor am I influenced by the fact that one side is richer or more important than the other. I think that as parliamentarians we all have an active and effective role to play.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, may I again congratulate the Minister of State for Finance and all members who sat on the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. As a young member I have gained some insight into the Bank Act and the hon. member for Edmonton West will surely say that people are taking a long time to get to know this legislation. I hope to continue along this line and that all committees and ministers will have the necessary openmindedness and will continue to be as friendly, as sincere and as devoted to the parliamentary and committee systems as is the Minister of State for Finance.

[*English*]

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, this act we now have before us has been before three Parliaments. It has had five sets of revisions, including the revision that is now before us. There has been much public discussion, not