

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: Of course. Nobody is denying that.

Mr. McGEER: And the fair members of this committee will agree that when I ask for the production of the actual details of the loan transactions—

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: 37,000 of them. Which one?

Mr. McGEER: No. If you want to know the way this matter should be investigated if this committee is going to report to the House of Commons properly, the committee should be supplied with the means of putting a thoroughly competent body of auditors in to examine the books of these loan companies and to bring us back special reports on what these companies are actually doing, and the parties to the investigation should go on the stand and be examined, not for a few casual minutes, but for whatever time is necessary to place fully before every member of this committee and before the House of Commons the actual facts regarding this type of business.

Now, I resent very much the suggestion that because we stand here asking for information there is an inference to be drawn; that members of the committee are acting in a way that is designed to prevent people coming before a parliamentary committee from getting a fair hearing and from giving a fair decision. Every member of this committee has a duty to himself and to his constituents and to the House of Commons to make his report to the House of Commons on a vote that is made in the light of all information that should be before this committee. I have watched this committee's operations on this particular thing—

Mr. CLEAVER: For the last week you have not; you have been away.

Mr. McGEER: No, I have been away. But every member has a right to be away.

Mr. CLEAVER: You have no right to hold the committee back because you were away.

Mr. McGEER: When he comes back he has the privilege to go to work.

Mr. MARTIN: And to go all over it again?

Mr. McGEER: Did you call anybody from the Bank of Commerce?

Mr. CLEAVER: We called your special witness and took three-quarters of a day and you were not here to cross-examine him and he was a washout.

Mr. McGEER: He might have been a washout.

Mr. VIEN: The same questions could be applied to the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia and every chartered bank in Canada. It would be an endless task.

The CHAIRMAN: May I suggest that we are discussing section 3 of the bill.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: That is a good idea.

Mr. McGEER: We have had that regularly.

The CHAIRMAN: What?

Mr. McGEER: The reference to the section we are discussing.

The CHAIRMAN: We ought to proceed in an orderly manner, Mr. McGeer, I suggest.

Mr. McGEER: I say we have had it and there is no reason why we cannot get it again.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you.

Mr. VIEN: It is in order now and quite appropriate.

Mr. McGEER: Now, I suppose the Minister is aware of the fact that there may be some dispute as to the right to charge 14 or 7 per cent under the bill we are amending. Has the Department of Finance any final decision on that?

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: May I answer that?

Mr. McGEER: Yes.

[Mr. Arthur P. Reid.]