

Canadian and British Insurance Act

standing committee on banking and commerce. It has received at the hands of that committee a thorough review and has been reported back now without amendment. Not only was the committee assisted by Mr. MacGregor, the superintendent of insurance, but also there appeared before the committee representatives of the Canadian Life Officers Association. If I may paraphrase their statements to the committee, they indicated their satisfaction with the bill and hoped it might be passed.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 11 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 12—*Municipal, etc., securities.*

Mr. Hellyer: Before this clause carries, I should like to repeat my conviction with regard to the change in paragraph 5(b) as to the allowable mortgage which one of these companies may make on a dwelling unit. The amount has now been increased from 60 per cent to 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. I am convinced that this increase is too small and that the government should have recommended to this House of Commons a more liberal evaluation. I have made the point in this chamber previously that the experience in other countries has shown that loans up to 75 per cent of the appraised value of the unit have been repaid without any serious losses. The experience there has proven beyond peradventure of a doubt that a much higher percentage of loan would be in order in the type of economic system that we presently enjoy.

I think it is a step in the right direction to increase the percentage from 60 per cent to 66 and $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. I think the mere fact that it was unanimously recommended by the insurance companies is an indication of what a conservative move it is. I know that many of these companies individually would have preferred to see the limit set much higher. Whereas last year in the house I suggested that an 80 per cent loan would be realistic under existing circumstances, I think that perhaps a compromise on 75 per cent at this time would be fairly generally agreeable.

May I state that I personally regret that the government has not seen fit to recommend a higher percentage than that included in this bill. I hope that the government, with the advice of the inspector, will see fit to recommend to the House of Commons in the near future a further revision which will increase the allowable loan at that time at least to 75 per cent of the appraised value.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I merely point out that to the knowledge of the insurance

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

department no company has asked us for more than that 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 36 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CLASSES OF ASSETS THAT MAY BE HELD

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee to consider Bill No. S-6, to amend the Foreign Insurance Companies Act.

Motion agreed to, bill considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the sitting of the house could be suspended until you yourself resummon it at about a quarter to six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that the house be suspended at the call of the Chair?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: To be signified by the ringing of the bell?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 4.55 p.m. the sitting of the house was suspended during pleasure.

SITTING SUSPENDED

The house resumed at 6.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Government House, Ottawa,
29th March, 1961

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Patrick Kerwin, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 29th March, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. Joly De Lotbiniere
Assistant Secretary to the
Governor General