

Bank of Canada Act

by the standing committee. As a result, with a few exceptions, the only documents to be submitted to the standing committee are those suitable to the financiers, that is, which are in accordance with the present financial system.

In that connection, a member of the committee to whom I was pointing out such unfairness answered me that, under the rules, the steering committee was fully empowered to decide not to discuss such or such a question or not to submit such or such brief to the standing committee. And he further added: Yes, but any brief not discussed or read in committee appears in the proceedings as an appendix:

What is the use of putting it into the report if it has not been considered? It is as if a question was filed in the archives without first having been studied at all.

Mr. Gray: May I ask the hon. member a question? Did he say that some papers had been brushed aside by the steering committee on finance, trade and economic affairs? If he has said that, he is mistaken.

Mr. Gauthier: I said that some briefs which have not been discussed in committee should appear in the report. But you will not allow such reports to be introduced and discussed in the committee.

Mr. Gray: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I wish to assure my hon. colleague that when the briefs which were only included in the record, it was because those who presented them stated that they did not wish to appear before the committee.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, I would have the chairman of the committee note that the briefs I have mentioned have been discussed by the steering committee and that it was probably decided to discard them, and not to submit them, and I shall simply mention that the brief of the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac (Mr. Latulippe) has probably been forgotten or set aside and will appear only in the report of the committee. But I believe it has not been thoroughly discussed in committee. This is what I would have the chairman of the committee note.

Mr. Gray: I should like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac was fully entitled to appear before the committee and to present his report. He was present often enough at the sittings to ask questions and to take part in

[Mr. Gauthier.]

the discussion. It was his own decision not to appear before the committee. And I think you should complain to your colleague from Compton-Frontenac on this score.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, the chairman of the committee, I think, is saying that the member for Compton-Frontenac was not entitled to present a brief to the committee because he was sitting on the committee. Is my interpretation correct?

Mr. Gray: Mr. Chairman, you will certainly allow me to answer this question. The hon. member for Compton-Frontenac had a right to sit in the committee as a regular member, to present his brief and to answer the questions that would have been asked of him about the recommendations in his brief. I want to assure the members of this committee of the whole that the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac very often attended our meetings and that he worked considerably on matters in which our committee was interested.

Mr. Gauthier: I know that the member for Compton-Frontenac fulfilled his duties quite satisfactorily in the committee, but I also know that he prepared a brief which has been discussed. I am talking about the attendance, the discussion or the permission to ask questions of the witnesses, because I shall have something to say about this later.

• (3:50 p.m.)

But this brief was never presented to the standing committee, because it was decided, I think, in the special committee, that there was not sufficient time to submit it to the standing committee. They simply decided to table it.

As far as I know, that is what happened concerning this report.

Mr. Clermont: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member permit me a question?

Mr. Gauthier: Yes, provided that questions and discussions will not take up all my time.

Mr. Clermont: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member should check with the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac, because if he had wanted to be heard as a witness by the committee on finance, trade and economic affairs, he could have testified. However, the member for Compton-Frontenac, who is here near me, did not insist to be heard.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, that is exactly what I discussed with the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac. Please note that