

Canada Student Loans Act

make loans on certain terms and conditions for certain purposes we will guarantee you against loss. It is, therefore, ultimately a matter for decision by the lending institutions themselves whether they make loans under the terms of the act, or the two companion acts to which the hon. member referred. These acts do not give the government authority to order the lending institutions to make the loans contemplated by them.

As I pointed out earlier in the debate, one of the major purposes of the amendments before us is to extend the lending period under the legislation so that small business loans can continue to be made. The proposal is that the lending period be extended for a further 18 months to June 30, 1971 rather than for a three year period as has been the case in the past. This would bring the lending periods contemplated in all three acts into line as far as terminal dates are concerned.

This will enable the government to carry out a review of these three programs concurrently. Such a review would permit the government to examine the entire scope of the operation, the results of the program, and the question as to whether any changes ought to be made. This review will be carried out in a way which will enable us to look at one program in the light of the experience with the others in so far as this would seem relevant. I believe that many of the suggestions made by hon. members during this stage of the debate and previously are suggestions which ought to be considered in the course of this review. For example, the point raised by the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Downey) and others with respect to including the Alberta treasury branches under the terms of the Small Businesses Loans Act is one which might be considered at that time. We should remember that the original objective of this legislation, together with its companion measures, was to facilitate by means of government guarantees a flow of credit for certain purposes by financial institutions to small business and certain other categories of enterprise. To include agencies such as the Alberta treasury branches as eligible to receive the federal government guarantee under this law and the two companion laws would raise a very broad question as to the eligibility of lending agencies of provincial governments, and, perhaps, in some cases, even of municipal governments. This, as I say, is a broad question which would extend beyond the matter of Alberta treasury branches, which, as hon. members have said, are playing a significant part in the financial life of the

province of Alberta, and I think hon. members will agree we should want to give such a suggestion serious consideration. A good opportunity for carrying out such an examination would certainly be during the course of the review to which I have referred.

I also wish to say that while the terms of this legislation and the companion legislation do not authorize the government to order the financial institutions in question to make the type of loans contemplated, the guarantee loans administration of the Department of Finance is willing to investigate complaints of the type raised by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate. If he, and other members of the House would like to bring to my personal attention complaints which have been brought to their notice by those who have sought loans under these acts I would be happy to have those complaints looked into and have reports made on them as soon as possible.

Let me in conclusion point out, as I did on another occasion when this subject was before the House, that though lending under the small businesses loans program never approached the volume reached under the Farm Improvement Loans Act it has, nevertheless, been a useful source of term financing for Canadian business. Since its inception some 20,000 small businesses have obtained financing amounting to almost \$190 million under this program and the proposals in Bill C-9 will help ensure that credit facilities of this kind continue to be available to assist small businessmen in Canada through arrangements encouraged by the federal government.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

CANADA STUDENT LOANS ACT**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING DEFINITION OF "BANKS", QUALIFYING STUDENTS, ETC.**

Hon. Herb Gray (for the Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-135, to amend the Canada Student Loans Act as reported (with out amendment) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Gray moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): I have a few comments to make at this stage, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the legislation