

Bank Act

to tighten our belts again. My colleagues say the money is all in books. That is a fact. The hon. Member for Edmonton West mentioned it today, and it is mentioned also in the Bank Act itself. It is a fact.

• (9:30 p.m.)

I know this is exactly the way things happen. Whether you like it or not, it is the permission given to the local bank by the head office that will determine whether a loan is made to an individual—an individual the head office never saw in their lives; an individual they do not know. To that extent, I have nothing against it. But there is something I wish this Government would take hold of, and this House. I refer to the difference between our party and the N.D.P., which we often call the Socialist Party. They want to socialize production and private enterprise. As the hon. Member for Villeneuve mentioned a few moments ago, they want to socialize electricity, natural resources, this and that. There is one domain or one section of the economy wherein the Social Credit or the Creditistes are socialist, and this is the only sphere of economic activity in which we are socialist. This is in socializing the monetary policies of this country to give their control to the Canadian Government. This is one thing that the Government cannot rid itself of, namely controlling the currency. When the Government has lost control of the currency, you can say it has lost control of everything. There is a monopoly here. The Minister of Finance well knows there is a monopoly here. It is a monopoly controlling the distribution of goods. The distribution of goods, and production and services in this country is controlled by the currency that permits that distribution to come about.

I am going to put a question to you here, Mr. Chairman. We all know that currency is a conventional means accepted by the people, and in which people have confidence, as a unit of measure. It measures value; that is all it does. The wealth is not in the dollar bill; it is in what the dollar bill represents. It is a representation of goods. If the dollar bill is a unit of measure to measure value, how come that the dollar bill can change its value? How can it be worth \$1.04 at one time, and at another time 92 cents? Have you ever seen a pound worth 14 ounces? You never did, and you never will. It is always worth 16 ounces on the dot. That is a unit of measure, to measure weight. Have you ever seen a metre shorter than 100 centimetres? You never saw it more than 100

[Mr. Langlois.]

centimetres, and you never saw it less than 100 centimetres. The true metre is held in a conservatory in France, in a platinum bar, and every other metre has to be measured by that. How come the lineal measure does not change? How come it is the measure of financial value that changes? If the measure of weight, pounds, does not change, and if the lineal measure, the foot or the metre, does not change, how come the value measure, the dollar, changes?

It is because there is speculation in regard to it. Somebody is applying tight money policies; somebody is applying loose money policies; somebody is speculating on it. The Minister knows about this. This is exactly the control that is in the hands of the chartered banks at the moment, given by the Government of the Canadian people. This control is given to these private institutions, which control the distribution of goods, services and production in this country. All we ask is that the Government control our currency, and control it from one end to the other. Let the chartered banks operate as they are, as a free enterprise; but let them have in their treasury enough capital to guarantee their loans 100 per cent. The caisses populaires and the credit unions in the different provinces must have 50 per cent in reserve as a guarantee. Ask them all to have 100 per cent in reserve as a guarantee. You cannot lend what you do not have. How can the Government permit private institutions to make loans when they do not have sufficient guarantee behind the loans? This is not a proper thing to do. This is the privilege of the Bank of Canada. That is the control we in this party desire to have belong to the Government, which is voted in by the people and should work for the people and with the people.

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Gordon thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-102, respecting Banks and Banking.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Grégoire: On division.