

Canada have asked for. With the experience the Corporation has had, it now comes forward and recommends this change, and having in mind the tight money situation in Canada, it should be very helpful. That, honourable senators, is the first change.

Clause 3 contains the second change. This clause deals with section 21 of the main act which gives the Corporation power to enter into transactions which otherwise they could not enter into under section 13 by reason of either the risk or the term involved. In those cases the Export Credits Insurance Corporation asks the Government whether or not it should enter into this transaction, and if the Government deems it is in the national interest that the corporation should do so, then it enters into the insured credit transaction, with the Government standing behind it with respect to the liability. This section has been in effect for some time, and the amendment made today adds the provision with respect to guarantees of bank loans in the same way as the amendment under section 13 deals with an insurance policy in a transaction in which the Government itself is not directly concerned. There is no increase in the maximum amount of liabilities that the insurance credit corporation may enter into in this type of transaction under section 21. The same maximum liability of \$600 million holds good including the guarantees.

Clause 4 of the bill amends section 21A of the act. Section 21A does not deal with credit insurance risks, but with actual loans. These loans are made by the Government from Government funds, but they are made through the instrumentality of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation. Here, there are two amendments of importance. The first is that there is a power to roll over a debt. That is to say, where a foreign government or a foreign buyer is in any difficulty with respect to repayment of the loan to the Canadian corporation, then there is power under this section to reschedule the debt. As a rule these difficulties will arise from foreign exchange problems, and this section gives the Export Credits Insurance Corporation power to enter into a roll-over agreement with the foreign government so as to provide for a change in debt repayments to enable the transaction to be carried out over a longer period of time. That is the change made in subsection 1 of section 4. Then there is a further change made in subsection 2 of that section. This increases the total liability under section 21 from \$400 million to \$500 million.

This last amendment is the one in which there appears to be some sense of urgency, as the corporation has now entered into contracts or is prepared to approve loans under section 21A which will extend, if they are entered into, the total amount of loans beyond the \$400 million figure. Therefore, this amendment increases the maximum liability to the corporation to \$500 million. I simply want to reiterate that the urgency is that if this increase from \$400 million to \$500 million is not made, then loans that the corporation wishes to make, loans that the corporation has in fact already approved, cannot be made, and the total operation of the corporation will be confined to the present provisions.

In the light of the history of this corporation, its success, and excellent management, and the desirability of these amendments, I think the bill will receive the support of all members of the Senate.

I may say that I think it went through all three readings in the House of Commons in such a short space of time that it involved less than half a column of *Hansard*—not as much as it will take in the Senate *Hansard* today.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Not as good either!

Hon. Mr. Leonard: I feel that we will all be in favour of this measure, and I question in my own mind whether it is necessary that it be referred to committee, particularly as we have another very important bill to deal with which no doubt will go to committee. However, I leave that decision in the hands of honourable senators. As I say, it is urgent that it should be passed as soon as possible.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, I may say that this bill has come to us more or less as a surprise. I feel sure that few honourable senators, and particularly those who unfortunately cannot be present this afternoon, expected the bill would be considered by us at this time.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Including the leader.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Yes, including the Leader of the Government.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): And the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Leonard: And the sponsor!

Hon. Mr. Brooks: As the honourable sponsor has pointed out, this bill received—I will not say “short shrift,” but it passed through