Government Orders

Therefore, I want to say to the House that there are difficulties, as the House will know, in getting the legal work done to make sure that the amendments are correct. Just prior to the House opening it was brought to my attention that Motion No. 57, which is to be dealt with in the third order of business, has to be amended because unfortunately the people in Justice missed a subclause that was agreed to as a restriction on the activities of banks. Therefore, an amendment ought to be unanimously agreed to with respect to trust companies and insurance companies as is appropriate in the particular case.

This is complicated legislation but I want to say to the House and give the House an undertaking that should there be matters that ought to be changed or ought to be brought forward that are found as we go along, I believe this House ought to be prepared to go back on those issues to make sure that any defects that could appear are corrected.

However, as far as possible—and this is difficult stuff—every conceivable effort has been made to make sure that the bills reflect not the government's view completely, but the view of the finance committee as it passed the various bills through the committee.

There is a matter I am going to bring forward and ask for unanimous consent for where, on Bill C-4, the government, and as a result of representations on Bill C-19, made changes to loans that could be made to directors and officers of an institution. They have made a provision for banks but not for trust companies and insurance companies and we are prepared to make that change now. I hope the House would want all of these institutions to be managed in the same fashion so that the system of operation for trust companies and banks and insurance companies is essentially the same, bearing in mind, of course, that they are each in a slightly different field of business. Indeed, with respect to insurance companies, they are in a substantially different field of business in terms of the way they get their deposits from the public.

I would appreciate any help the House can give me here. The House will appreciate, and the member from Regina—Qu'Appelle will appreciate, that I have been involved in this legislation for a long time, indeed, much prior to the member from Regina—Qu'Appelle. The matters were really before the House or before the finance committee and from time to time before the House in questions and debates and so on since 1981. So this is a matter that has been before us for a good 10 years. It is not a matter you come to all of a sudden, overnight. This is a matter that has been worked on by people in the financial industries, the ministries of finance and the people who worked well for us in CDIC and the superintendent's office over a long period of time.

I want to say to the House and give it this undertaking, that this legislation is our best effort to do the best job we can. While there may be problems with it, and the amendments may likely have the odd hitch in them, this is the best we can do. I think we ought to proceed as quickly as we can with it.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I have several comments. I do not doubt the sincerity of the hon. member who has spoken, but a number of things have occurred. The hon. member has made reference to the fact that the subject matter that we are dealing with is indeed a very complicated matter. I think members of the committee were apprised that the government would be coming forward with amendments, and they have come forward with amendments. I think the government is within the appropriate procedure of the House in order to table those amendments, which it has. But in terms of simple courtesy -the hon. member shrugs his shoulders-we were the ones who consented to have these four bills wrapped together for the purpose of debate in order to facilitate the discussion and to assist the critics, and it makes sense.

Mr. McDermid: And it makes sense.

Mr. Dingwall: Absolutely, absolutely. But in terms of mere courtesy, to have a host of amendments dropped on you late on Friday afternoon, far beyond what was ever anticipated by members on this side of the House, is not fair game.

I understand that the government, the House leader, the parliamentary secretary and the minister responsible have the right to proceed. That is fine, but I wish to notify the Chair that the simple courtesies that we anticipated as a result of the co-operation given by this side of the House have not been forthcoming.