

were lending government money and the purpose of this measure was to lend private capital. I should like to assure him and the house that the treasury branches in Alberta do operate a great deal on private capital. In fact, for a number of years these branches paid a higher rate on deposits than any of the chartered banks.

When I read clause 1 I cannot find where the minister has made provision to consult the treasury branches in the years ahead. Therefore I should like to move the following amendment:

To add after the word "society", line 12 and before the word "that" in line 13, the words "and other financial institutions".

I fully understand that this amendment will not automatically bring in the treasury branches in the years ahead. However, I want to make certain that these banks which have served Alberta so well cannot be automatically excluded. The minister will not be able to say in a year or two that they do not qualify because of the way this provision was written.

● (5:30 p.m.)

By adding these simple words "and other financial institutions" we will make the measure broad enough so that, if after consultation with the Alberta provincial authorities they want to qualify and rearrange their bookkeeping to satisfy the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance, there will be provision in the act to do so and they will not have to come back to parliament in search of a special provision. These financial institutions have done an excellent job in attempting to serve the rural areas of Alberta.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I move this amendment.

I encourage the Minister of Agriculture and his colleagues, and particularly the hon. member to my right who spoke about the need to provide money to farmers, to support this amendment. I am sure this extra competition in the province of Alberta would be welcomed by the farmer.

Mr. Gray: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak to a point of order. I am wondering whether or not this amendment is in order inasmuch as it would appear to increase the possible financial obligations of the government. Perhaps Your Honour might give us some direction on whether an amendment of this type, not presented by the government, would be acceptable for the reason I have suggested.

Farm Improvement Loans Act

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, there might be some merit to the point raised by the parliamentary secretary except for the fact that paragraph (ii) of subclause (1) of clause 1 refers to "a credit union, caisse populaire or other co-operative credit society". This is an open-ended definition and it leaves it to the discretion of the minister. There are a great number of credit associations and credit unions which might qualify. I hardly think the addition of the words "and other financial institutions" would in any substantial or definitive way add to the financial responsibilities of the government. If there was a limitation in respect of chartered banks, or specifically described institutions which were limited in number, there might be something to be said for the objection, but the eligibility provided by paragraph (ii) is so wide that the objection is not one that should be taken seriously.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Chairman, if I understood the parliamentary secretary correctly, he questioned the legality of the amendment because it might result in an increased cost to the government. He must realize that there will be no additional cost unless other institutions apply and qualify. There is nothing to stop the Minister of Agriculture or any other member of the cabinet, for that matter, turning down an application. The amendment does not suggest that all applications must be accepted. It makes provision for application. I fail to see any validity in the argument of the parliamentary secretary that the amendment is out of order.

[*Translation*]

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I thank the honourable members for their enlightening comments, however, in my opinion, the amendment suggested by the honourable member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) goes beyond the terms of the resolution. In point of fact, the resolution preceding the bill under consideration appeared on the order paper of September 16, 1968, and read as follows:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act to provide for a further three-year loan period ending June 30, 1971; to substitute for the 5% rate of interest on guaranteed farm improvement loans made under the Act such rate or rates of interest as may be prescribed by the Governor in Council; to extend the purposes for which guaranteed loans may be made to include the purchase of land as an addition to an existing farm enterprise; to increase from \$15,000 to \$25,000 the maximum amount of any loan that may be made under the Act to a