

Export Credits Insurance Act

After the taking of the vote:

Mr. McGee: I rise on a question of privilege, or a point of order.

The Chairman: The committee is rising.

Mr. Chevrier: Too late.

Progress reported.

Mr. McGee: Mr. Speaker, may I rise on this question of privilege or point of order?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. McGee: I have reference to the allegation made by the hon. member for Essex East during the discussions in committee a few moments ago.

Mr. Chevrier: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, in connection with the question of privilege which the hon. member wishes to raise. There is no question of privilege to be raised by an hon. member at this stage in connection with what another hon. member has said concerning the proceedings of this house, particularly in committee. That is what the hon. member is now trying to do and, with respect, I say it is entirely out of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McGee: May I explain the position further?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. McGee: I can speak to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Laurier. I certainly would have expected that on reflection the hon. member for Essex East would have been delighted at the opportunity to withdraw the unfounded allegation that he made a few minutes ago.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I said "closure without notice".

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for York-Scarborough stated that he was rising on a question of privilege, but he has said enough to indicate that it seems to be a point of order and that it should have been taken at the stage at which it arose. The committee is master of its own proceedings and deals with such problems when they arise. In my view, and I think I am correct, it is too late now to raise a matter which could have been dealt with in the committee.

EXPORT CREDITS INSURANCE ACT**AMENDMENT RESPECTING MAXIMUM
LIABILITY OF IMPORTERS**

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-68, to amend the Export Credits Insurance Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I have no further statement to make. I made quite a long statement at the resolution stage yesterday and there has been quite a full debate, so I have nothing further to say at this time.

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks I should like to make on second reading of the bill. This is a short bill and seems to raise two matters of principle. The first arises out of clause 1 of the bill, which was described in the resolution as a certain matter having to do with the administration of the Export Credits Insurance Act; but now that we have the bill it turns out that the certain matter relating to the administration of the act involves an increase in the number of directors from five to six. This, of course, raises the whole question of the administration of the act and the principle being applied in relation thereto. On that point I desire to say a few brief words which will to some extent be repetitious of what I said at the resolution stage, but I will try not to make my remarks any more repetitious than necessary because I merely want to deal with the principle involved.

The other matter of principle raised by the bill has to do with whether or not parliament should grant increased funds in order to permit the corporation to proceed to guarantee payment of further instruments of sale or export under section 21A of the act, and whether the government should make additional funds available to the corporation for use in the purchase of guaranteed instruments.

With relation to the question of principle involved, I think enough has become apparent at the resolution stage and earlier in other debates to show that everything that can be done by appropriate legislative means to assist our exporters should be done because of the sharply increased competition they have to face throughout the world. It is readily apparent from an examination of statistical data on this subject that this country is not quite holding its competitive position. That is due to a number of things, among them being the very rapid recovery made in Europe, the success of the venture undertaken there in coming together in the common market grouping, and so on. Whatever the reasons are, I do not propose to discuss or develop them now, but they make it very clear that every assistance must be given our exporters to meet the kind of competition they have to meet in world markets.

The second clause of the bill, which raises the question whether or not we should grant an additional \$100 million for the purpose of guaranteeing export payments or purchases of instruments where necessary, is