

*Bank of Canada Act*

convey the meaning intended by the hon. member. It reads as follows:

The form and material of notes shall be subject to approval by the minister, but such notes shall not contain any wording which is misleading or which might deceive the public—

This might give the impression that the Minister of Finance is a counterfeiter. It is said that the notes shall be subject to his approval, but inasmuch as they do not contain any misleading wording.

I am convinced that the wording of this bill is rather disrespectful towards any minister of finance and I am sure that the hon. member for Chicoutimi did not intend, for nothing in the world, to show disrespect towards authority.

In my opinion, this wording is ambiguous and confusing and, for that reason I will not accept the bill as worded.

However, Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out that the idea embodied in this proposed amendment is excellent. The bill goes on to say:

—which might deceive the public as to the true nature thereof, or of the obligations incurred by the bank in issuing them and all notes shall be printed in both the English and the French language.

The intent is quite generous; in fact, it is in accordance with the policy of the present government which has become the great advocate of bilingualism and biculturalism throughout Canada. Indeed, I should like to point out to the hon. member for Chicoutimi that it was under a Liberal administration, that of Mackenzie King, that currency became truly bilingual—

**Mr. Pigeon:** No.

**Mr. Choquette:** I see the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon) getting up. We will again have droppings from the pigeon. I wish to prevent him from rising on a point of order, because he is going to say that it is Bennett who approved the principle of bilingual currency. Yet, it was Mackenzie King who gave us bilingual bank notes. Under Bennett, there were two kinds of currency, one English and one French, which was more or less a hiatus. But Mackenzie King rectified the situation, so that we have a currency which is truly and essentially bilingual.

**Mr. Pigeon:** It is the principle which was hard to get accepted.

**Mr. Choquette:** Especially when you are a Conservative and an imperialist, the application is difficult, Mr. Speaker. What I want—

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Pigeon:** The Bennett government accepted the principle of bilingualism for our currency. Once bilingualism is accepted in principle, it is easy to apply.

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to go on with my observations, since I only have a few minutes left. I wish to draw the attention of the house to the fact that we are now intensively considering the matter of a distinctive Canadian flag and I think the great majority of the Canadian people agree—

**Mr. Bélanger:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Choquette:** —on money—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Is the hon. member for Charlevoix rising on a question of privilege or on a point of order?

**Mr. Bélanger:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wish to point out that the hon. member for Lotbinière is now discussing the matter of a national flag which is in no way related to the subject now under consideration.

**Mr. Pigeon:** He is often off the track.

**Mr. Choquette:** I am simply making a comparison. I am coming back to money. I do not want to hurt anyone's feelings. I respect traditions, whether they come from our English speaking or our French speaking friends. On the other hand, I have always had the deep conviction that, living in Canada, we want to be Canadians everywhere, in practice as well as in theory. That is why I think that with regard to our Canadian money, another form of bank notes could be found, according to the principle stated by the hon. member for Chicoutimi, and without offending Her Majesty. Why should we not have money that is fundamentally Canadian in substance and form? That is what I wanted to say in the debate on that very interesting bill, to which I cannot agree, however, because of its crushing phraseology.

[Text]

**Mr. J. E. Lloyd (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate for a member to draw attention to the wording of Canada's currency as issued by the Bank of Canada.

**Mr. Knowles:** Will you table that?

**Mr. Lloyd:** There is no question whatsoever that the particular wording is in need of revision. Indeed, the royal commission on banking and finance says so.

Because of the time factor I should like to explain why I think this bill should not pass. It refers to amending section 21 of the Bank of Canada Act, whereas at page 556 of the