

*Export Credits Insurance*

member for Vancouver South, notwithstanding the attempt of the hon. member for Ottawa West to make an occasion of it.

The CHAIRMAN: On the point of order raised by the hon. member for Ottawa West, it is not the intention of the chair to press the point, for I am sure the hon. member for Vancouver South realizes that the chairman would be the last person to attempt in any way to curb the deliberations of the committee. However, I believe there are times when it is the duty of the chairman to bring to the attention of the committee certain rules concerning the debates and the subject matter under discussion.

Mr. GREEN: It is interesting to see the hon. member for Ottawa West rise in his seat at this stage of the session and try to correct some of the rest of us.

Mr. McILRAITH: The hon. member for Ottawa West has some rights.

Mr. GREEN: Many of us live thousands of miles away from Ottawa, and attend regularly. But he is not to be seen in the chamber very often.

Mr. McILRAITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, there is no member of the House of Commons who has attended the sessions of parliament more regularly than I have. Surely the hon. member's statement is grossly inaccurate. That statement could not be made without being challenged.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I can challenge what the hon. member for Vancouver South says, and I can vouch for what the hon. member for Ottawa West has said. He is in the house nearly all the time.

Mr. GREEN: I am here a good deal of the time, and I am only speaking from my own observations.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): A very unfair statement.

Mr. GREEN: Perhaps the minister would answer the question.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): The bill provides for the right of selection of risks.

Mr. GREEN: Is it a fact that the better risks will be handled by the banks?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I think the bank itself might be insured on risks. I am not saying that definitely, but—

Mr. GREEN: The new corporation will be able to insure the commercial banks against loss.

[Mr. G. Black.]

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I would think so.

Mr. GREEN: Is that the way an insurance contract would be written, as a general rule?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): No. Provision is made for right of selection of risk between the manufacturer or producer in Canada, and his customer in the other countries.

Mr. GREEN: In the case of a loan to a foreign government for the purpose of purchasing Canadian goods, is the Canadian government to be in a position to say from what firm the foreign government will purchase the goods in Canada?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I do not think the Canadian government would interest itself on behalf of any individual firm in Canada. It would be an arrangement with the other country to enable that other country to provide Canadian funds to pay any exporter in Canada.

Mr. GREEN: Will the government have any control over purchases within Canada? That is, will the government have power to say from what firms these purchases are to be made?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I do not think the government would attempt to do that.

Mr. GREEN: Is this loan provision to apply to all foreign governments? For example, is it to apply to the government of a country which is able to pay for the goods, or is it only to apply to the countries which have been bankrupted by the war.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): These loans will all be considered on their merits, by the government. There is no obligation to make any loan. It will all be as a matter of negotiation.

Mr. GREEN: That is, it might apply to France, or to Great Britain or to the United States? At the present time the minister is not in a position to say that there will be any distinction between governments?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): No.

Mr. STIRLING: Is this bill to cover manufactured articles as well as natural products and agricultural products? Is it to cover all exports from Canada?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I believe manufactured products.

Mr. STIRLING: Only?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): Yes.