

CRIMINAL CODE

PROTECTION OF PRIMARY PRODUCER RESPECTING
USE OF REGISTERED BOTTLES OR SIPHONS

The house having reverted to the order for introduction of bills:

Mr. VINCENT DUPUIS (Chambly-Rouville) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 131, to amend the criminal code.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. DUPUIS: The purpose of the bill is to amend the criminal code to meet the requests of farmers who sell various products on the local markets in large centres such as Montreal, Quebec and similar cities. Last year section 490 of the criminal code was amended to prevent people from using the receptacles of companies like the Borden milk company to fill with any beverage of their own and market in their name. As far as this is concerned the farmers, and I myself, are willing that these companies should be protected in respect of their property, but the amendment is intended to make the section a little clearer, because now it is so interpreted as to find the farmer guilty even though he fills with cream these bottles which are brought to the market by consumers. I have therefore introduced this bill to add to section 490 a third paragraph to deal with the situation.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CENTRAL MORTGAGE BANK

PROVISION FOR INCORPORATION, PURCHASE OF
SHARES, GUARANTEE OF DEBENTURES, ETC.

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to incorporate a central mortgage bank, to provide for the appointment and salaries of the officers and staff of the bank and the appointment and fees of the directors, to authorize the payment out of the consolidated revenue fund of not exceeding ten million dollars for the purchase of shares of the bank, to authorize payment of any losses suffered by the bank out of the consolidated revenue fund, to authorize the governor in council to guarantee the principal of and interest on the debentures to be issued by the bank, and to make provisions with respect to the functions and powers of the bank.

He said: The object of bringing forward this resolution to-day is in the hope that discussion upon it might be sufficiently brief, on my part as well as on the part of other hon. members, to permit the immediate tabling

of the bill, so that everyone will then have an opportunity over the week-end of studying its detailed provisions and be in a position to discuss and to put questions on the second reading and the committee stages of the bill itself. However, in that regard I am in the hands of the committee; but I propose at this stage to give only a general explanation touching what I might call the high spots of the problem and the manner in which this bill seeks to provide means of dealing with it.

I need not sketch in great detail the mortgage problem of Canada. Every hon. member is familiar with it, and also with the fact that during the last few years the effects of monetary policy have become apparent with respect to the borrowing of what I might call new money, through the medium of the National Housing Act in relation to urban housing, of the farm loan board and other provincial institutions in the field of agricultural mortgage credit. The measure with respect to home improvements, and other enactments of the kind, together with the impact of a generally easy money policy upon rates of interest generally, have tended to move distinctly in the right direction so far as the cost of what I might term new money is concerned. All of us however are aware of the tremendous backlog problem in the mortgage field with respect to obligations undertaken years ago which have not yet reached maturity and which carry interest rates higher than the current rates on new money, and rates which, owing to conditions which have prevailed especially in some parts of Canada, have proven unduly onerous at the present time.

There is a secondary aspect of the problem which is sometimes given, I think, too little consideration, and that is the fact that while the mortgage debtor is in difficulties, particularly when he is a debtor who cannot fully meet his obligations under present conditions, it is also true that the creditor to whom the mortgage debtor owes the debt is himself a debtor. I can illustrate that by taking two very common examples. In many cases the creditor of the mortgage debtor is the life insurance company. The life insurance company in turn is the debtor to its policyholders. Most mortgage companies are debtors to two classes of people, their debenture holders and their savings depositors. A trust company is in the same position. So when in our thinking we stop at the primary debtor and fail to follow through, fail to remember that the creditor of the primary debtor is in the great majority of cases also a debtor to a great