

from satisfied with it, we have at least made a start on rural credit. We ought also to give consideration to the provision of loans in industrial or perhaps I should say urban centres. Now, I think it is a fair assumption, Mr. Chairman, that out of the study of parliament next year will emerge some system of that character. If this company is granted these powers, as I said a moment ago notwithstanding anything in the Interest Act or the Money Lenders' Act, we are establishing now a very reasonable and justifiable claim on the part of this company that parliament having done this in the light of an anticipated revision of the Act they have a vested right which parliament should not disturb. It is a fair assumption, and I would say this; that I am not for one moment criticizing the company for endeavouring to get itself in that position. I think it is good business on their part and I am not offering any criticism of that. They are looking at it from their angle. I differ from them, and differ from them very frankly; I think they will not charge me with not being frank with my position on their request. But I conceive it to be our very great duty now to prevent such a condition from developing and for that reason I am opposed to the passage of this clause which was before us yesterday. And I want to say to Mr. Reid, not by way of flattery at all but with genuine appreciation, that he has proved to be a very excellent witness; he has answered our questions frankly, and I appreciate it; and in answering a question of my own yesterday Mr. Reid very frankly stated, with respect to the company's business that its facility to carry on and its capacity to carry on is not going to be impaired if this expansion or increase in capital is not granted. In the light of this expected and government announced program of revision of the main Act, and in the light of Mr. Reid's admission that his private corporation is not going to be impaired by the failure of these two sections to pass—this one is the only one now—I contend that this committee ought to say to the finance company, we prefer that you should not press this case at the present time, leave it for a year until parliament has dealt with the program announced by the government, and then after that is done we will be in a better position to consider your proposal.

I submit, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that that is a reasonable position. It is not a position that I think a corporation such as this could very well combat. And we must remember that a private incorporation, and particularly the incorporation of a private company that does take it out from under these three important general Acts, is a fairly great privilege that we are extending. I think that the feature of private incorporation is frequently disregarded. I consider, this is my philosophy and I have given a good deal of study to it, I consider that if a group of men go to parliament or under the Companies' Act go to the government of the day, the administration, and secure a charter which incorporates them into a corporate body and eliminates the personal liability feature that the country has given to those people a very high privilege. We have become so familiar with incorporations and the incorporating of companies that we have lost sight I think of the privilege which is extended to corporate bodies. That is another reason why I think we should scrutinize with very great care a request of this kind at any time and under any circumstances, but more particularly under the circumstances of to-day.

Now, these are the few remarks I wish to make, and all that I wish to say on this subject in the form of argument. If the committee insists on going forward with the clause then I wish to examine Mr. Reid on one or two points further relative to the use, or need, or necessity for capital; in the alternative I would appeal to the company that they should drop this clause for the time being and allow the matter to remain over until after the government has acted. I make that appeal, and I make these suggestions to the committee, and we will await what the committee is prepared to do. But I reserve, Mr. Chairman, if I may, the right to ask some questions of the company should we prefer to proceed.