

*Private Bills*

stocks. We have been aware of this for some time. I would be reluctant to go too far in discussing the purposes of this particular company in the investment field. I have no objection to the formation of the company or to its operation. We have been trying to buttress the position taken by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and to help him in every way we can, because we know he is encountering difficulties in his cabinet with regard to some of these things.

This is a Canadian-owned company and since it is a life insurance company it is required by law to remain one. We take the position that this bill should proceed to the committee, but that these aspects of its investment policy to which I have called attention should be examined in a great deal more detail than has been the case up to now, with a view to ascertaining whether they could not have a damaging effect upon the economy.

• (6:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, once again, I shall speak only three minutes.

I must say that the arguments of my colleagues of the New Democratic party have a considerable impact on me in the financial circumstances facing the country at this time.

I have had the opportunity of mentioning several times that the government should be inspired by certain suggestions provided by certain parties. I mean especially the third parties, because I have the impression that the two traditional parties are being guided in their legislation by the existing financial situation and do not seem inclined to get out of their environment or, to use a more up-to-date expression, to swing to the left.

I think this is a case where the government should definitely swing to the left and seriously consider whether it would not be of considerable benefit for the government in solving the difficult financial circumstances in which the Canadian people find themselves at this time, to require as a strict minimum all such companies to invest to a very high degree in the economy of the country.

I simply want to say that, on this point, I support unreservedly the remarks of my colleagues of the New Democratic party that there is a weakness here and that a review, a reorganization of the financial situation is necessary in that field, as in some others, precisely to relieve the fate of Canadian taxpayers and put a stop to the flow of our capital

into American investments simply because they are more profitable for the company.

Some consideration must also be given to the finances of the country which are at stake and which require those people to invest more in the country.

I emphasize this part of my remarks to say that I support them completely, even if I do not object in principle to the incorporation of this company. I suggest that the government should look closely into the remarks of members of the New Democratic party and keep them in mind when the basis of our whole financial system is revised. Furthermore, it is very urgent that the major companies such as these should sit around a table and consider our financial situation in the light of its social repercussions.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the house ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time, and referred to the standing committee on finance, trade and economic affairs.

BRITISH NORTHWESTERN INSURANCE  
COMPANY

**Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce)** moved the second reading of Bill No. S-14, respecting British Northwestern Insurance Company.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. Prior to 1964 there were four insurance companies belonging to the Eagle Star Insurance group operating in Canada. All these companies carried on a general insurance business. One of these companies was British Northwestern Insurance Company, which is being considered in this bill. The other three companies were Eagle Star Insurance Company, the Security National Insurance Company and British Crown Insurance Corporation Limited. Eagle Star Insurance Company Limited was an English company, and was the holding company for the other three companies. Since 1964 the Security National Insurance Company and British Crown Insurance Corporation Limited have transferred their business to the British Northwestern Insurance Company, and the purpose of this bill is to change the name of the British Northwestern Insurance Company to Eagle Star Insurance Company of Canada. Once that is done the holding company, which is called the Eagle Star Insurance Company Limited, will