

Trust Companies Act

discussion of these bills in the Senate banking and commerce committee. Apparently they did not have a reporter available when they were examining the superintendent of insurance and others.

The minister has indicated that the proposed amendments, with respect to both loan and trust companies, are very similar, although we have to deal with them in separate bills. I thought the minister would indicate to the house at this stage, particularly with respect to trust companies, that our consideration of these bills does not involve some of the more prominent trust companies of the country with which we are familiar. Many of the trust companies are incorporated under provincial jurisdiction. The minister indicated that there were 11 trust companies.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I shall be glad to put that on the record if my hon. friend thinks it is of any advantage.

Mr. Benidickson: No, but the hon. senator who introduced this bill in the other place referred to 10 companies. I felt this should be on the record because many of the members of the house are not members of the banking and commerce committee. We all know that sometimes, after careful consideration in the committee, our colleagues are quite prepared to accede to the recommendations that come from such a committee.

So far as I am informed the trust companies that would be involved in this legislation are the Canada Permanent Trust Company, the Canada Trust Company, Chartered Trust Company, Commercial Trust Company Limited, the Eastern Trust Company, Guaranty Trust Company of Canada, the Premier Trust Company, Prudential Trust Company, Limited, the Sterling Trusts Corporation, and the Investors Trust Company. Hon. members of the house will recognize the absence of the names of many of the very prominent trust companies of the country with which we are familiar because of the fact that they are not subject to federal law with respect to their incorporation.

The minister indicated that there were four significant points in the bills that are before us. I, of course, cannot at this stage refer to the various clauses, but he did indicate that perhaps of the four, two have aroused particular public concern. One is the suggested change in the relationship between paid-up capital and borrowings of the institutions. The other which I think has major significance is the question of whether or not those institutions or corporations will be empowered under the law to make their annual statement to the superintendent of

[Mr. Benidickson.]

insurance with respect to federal and provincial bonds based on the market value of those bonds or whether or not instead it might be on the amortized values. I am impressed by the fact that many other institutions today follow the practice in their reports of utilizing the amortized values. The minister indicated that this is permitted to the chartered banks and to the insurance companies. I understand that the Bank of Canada adopts this form in its annual report. I understand that this is the practice of companies of this kind in the United Kingdom, so I say that I am not going to make any criticism of the proposal at this stage.

I happen to be a member of the banking and commerce committee and will have an opportunity of meeting there with the superintendent of insurance and other witnesses, and examining very carefully the public interest with respect to the proposals that are before us.

In conclusion, may I just say that I know of no public servant in whom the House of Commons in past experience has reason to have more confidence than the superintendent of insurance. I have sat on many committees over the past 13 years or so and on most of those committees I have found that my friend the Minister of Finance was also a member of the same committees. I think he will agree with me that perhaps no public official comes before a House of Commons committee with a greater respect for the members of the House of Commons committee or a Senate committee. I think he is, perhaps beyond all others, anxious to explain in the utmost detail for those of us who are not too experienced in some of these matters the elements that are involved in the legislation that is under discussion. I said that I regret that whatever the superintendent of insurance had to say directly to the senators was not available in a *Hansard*. He was quoted, of course, in the Senate debates, sometimes for a persons viewpoint and sometimes against it. I shall look forward to the opportunity of having these bills discussed in the banking and commerce committee. I am pleased that the Minister of Finance has announced that the superintendent of insurance will be available so that hon. members may have his guidance and his advice in the discussion of this bill.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the outline of the purpose of this bill which I understood the minister to say is almost identical with the next bill which will be introduced in this respect. Like the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Benidickson), I perused with some interest the debates in