

Fisheries Improvement Loans Act

such information can be had before the bill reaches the house for second reading.

Mr. Robichaud: It would be helpful if it were only between banks and credit unions.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There has been lending done by the credit unions. When I made arrangements with the chartered banks to continue their lending operations under the act during the period between December 11, 1958 and the date the present proposed measure comes into effect a similar arrangement was made with the credit unions. However, I shall endeavour to obtain the information sought by the hon. member and give it to the house when the bill comes before the house on the motion for second reading.

I was also asked as to the number of applications rejected. I doubt whether that information is available because these are applications made to banks, credit unions or caisses populaires, not applications made to the department.

Various suggestions have been made as to ways in which the scope of the act might be extended. The hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg put forward a concrete proposal which was supported by the hon. member for St. John's East and also by the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo. I may say that the first two named members spoke to me about this matter also after the resolution appeared on the order paper. I may also say that I have been very much impressed by the suggestion and I tell the committee now, as I told my hon. friends, that I shall certainly be prepared to give very sympathetic consideration to the suggestion. I think there is merit in the proposal that has been made. It is a fact that the act, which has not been amended since it first came into effect in 1955, does not permit a guaranteed loan to be made to a person who at one time had an interest in a fishing vessel but no longer has such interest or to a person who desires to acquire an interest in a fishing vessel for the first time. As I have told my hon. friends, I shall certainly be glad to give very sympathetic consideration to the suggestion which has been made.

Mr. Robichaud: I have one more question before the resolution is carried. Would the minister also give consideration to the request I made that the directors of the credit unions be contacted to find out why they are not taking more advantage of the legislation? It may be that the guarantee on the 15-10 per cent basis may not be altogether satisfactory. It may be that it could not be done this year but the minister might consider an amendment for next year to provide a 20-15 per cent guarantee or even 20-10 per cent.

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I shall be glad to give consideration to my hon. friend's suggestion with respect to contacting the directors of the credit unions. As to his second point, my impression is that the limit now set by the statute on the extent of the government's guarantee has not been a stumbling block in the way of wider use of the provisions of the act. It may be, as is indicated in the province of Newfoundland, that the availability of this type of loan under the statute is not as widely known as one would wish. I can certainly say, however, and give full assurance to the committee that it is the government's wish that the fullest use be made of the provisions of the act by those for whose benefit the legislation was enacted by parliament.

Mr. Robichaud: Are these pamphlets being circulated in the French language?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill C-30, to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, ETC.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-26, to amend the Northwest Territories Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, during the many years that have elapsed since the Northwest Territories Act was first enacted the house has been ready to keep pace with the development of the territories by approving the necessary amendments from time to time. I am sure all hon. members will agree that the amendments I have the honour to present at this time represent forward steps in providing the territories with orderly and effective administration.

At the present time the act provides that elected members of the council hold office for a term of three years from the date of the return of their individual writs of election. Because of the time it takes for the returns to come in from the outlying polls the effect of this provision is that each member's term of office starts on a different date. It is desirable to have all elected for the same term and it is proposed, by this amendment, to establish a definite term of office for the council itself, the term being three years from the date of the return of the writs for the