

Co-operative Credit Associations Act

merchant bank, carries out the banking function, then the activities of that organization should be subject to some part of the Bank Act, not all of it, the same as the chartered banks. They should be subject to control under the Bank Act. Banking is a federal prerogative, and there it should be.

As in the case of co-operatives, we see how these organizations can move in under the deposit insurance privileges extended to banking institutions primarily. This provides for any member of a co-operative credit association to have recourse to the Deposit Insurance Corporation as a lender of last resort in the event it becomes involved in difficulty. I do not object to that because it means the depositor of a trust company, bank or credit union, where there has been a misfortune, error or, perhaps culpable dishonesty, at least shall be protected. This is the purpose of it.

I have outlined these particular questions which I think we want to examine in committee. I hope we will be able to have the representatives of the National Credit Co-operative Association before us to go into these questions, because before long we will see another revision of the Bank Act. I feel certain in my mind that my thesis of 1966 has been reinforced by the experience of the past few years, and that we will have to have a comprehensive banking act passed by the parliament of Canada in order to place all financial institutions at the same high level of performance which would be for the protection of the Canadian public. So, Mr. Speaker, I think we are satisfied to have this bill go to the committee where it may be given the careful examination that it deserves.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise for only a minute or two for the purpose of saying that the New Democratic Party is prepared to support the second reading of this bill so that it can go to the appropriate committee to be studied. Although it is a bill of some 40 pages, with a great deal of technical and complicated language, it contains, as the parliamentary secretary pointed out, three main features. In the first place, it opens to co-operative credit associations certain doors that at present are closed to them. In the second place, it facilitates the incorporation of co-operative credit associations. It makes it possible for this to be done by letters patent, instead of the necessity of always having to obtain an Act of Parliament. In the third place, it extends the powers of the Superintendent of Insurance with regard to the surveillance of co-operative credit associations so as to protect the interests of members of such associations.

It is obvious from the remarks just made by the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) that when the bill gets to committee there will be a rehash of the old debate about the position of co-operatives, whether we are talking about co-operative credit associations, consumer co-operatives or producer co-operatives in respect of income tax. This raises the whole question of the rationale of co-operatives as opposed to private business. I do not intend this afternoon to enter into that argument. I simply say to the hon. member for Edmonton West that it will be joined when the bill gets to committee.

[Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).]

● (1530)

We would have been prepared to go a little further with this bill today, but the general understanding is that it would be more satisfactory for it to go to the appropriate committee. Therefore, we are prepared to agree to its second reading at this time.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

TRIBUTES TO HON. MEMBER FOR PEACE RIVER AS HOUSE LEADER OF OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to have the indulgence of the House briefly, before suggesting that we indicate there seems to be agreement that there be no private members' hour and that we might see both four o'clock and five o'clock simultaneously, to say a word or two about one of our hon. members here present.

The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) has served as the House leader for his party for as long, I believe, as I have been here. I have now learned that he has been given strategic and other duties and that his ordinary duties in the House have been entrusted to other hands. We will naturally await the new hands with expectation and interest. However, I do not think the occasion should pass—and I know that if the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) were here he would not want it to pass—without saying how much hon. members on all sides of the House have appreciated the contributions of the hon. member for Peace River in his role as the House leader for his party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: I know that nothing I may say will tame him in his role as member of parliament for Peace River in the future. Indeed, as minister responsible for the Wheat Board I fear he may have some additional time and effort to direct to that interesting area. But certainly we have all observed his great ability not only to co-operate and facilitate the business of the House, when that was the clear objective in mind, but also his ability to engage in our numerous points of order and problems of procedure, particularly when Your Honour had found at first glance that there seemed to be no case at all. Then we have heard an immediate and studied examination of the problem by the hon. member for Peace River. Indeed, but for the fact that someone as experienced and as understanding as Your Honour could see what was quality of argument and what was argument in substance, he would have carried the day every time he spoke.

His interventions were often witty and almost always directly to the point. Quite often they were the cause of the kind of pain which is completely permitted and expected in this place. I simply want to say, on behalf of all of us, how much we have enjoyed his performance in that role. It has added greatly to the quality of the work of