

Quebec Savings Banks Act

1931, and a major financial catastrophe occurred in that country until the election into office of that great leader, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who managed to get things back on the road again.

I hope to have the opportunity, during second reading of the bill to revise the Bank Act, to deal with some of the peculiar theories which my hon. friend in that corner are fond of repeating, I almost said "ad nauseam" but I do not want to become offensive in any way. So perhaps they will wait until then.

Mr. Monteith: Try explaining that to those who voted for them a couple of years ago.

Mr. Gordon: I will do that, too. I do not think I have anything more to say about 1929; I am more interested in 1969 and 1989.

[Translation]

Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Chairman, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the fact that he has just stated that Quebec savings banks do not have the same privileges as other chartered banks and taking that difference into consideration, will the minister authorize the Quebec provincial government to acquire shares and to control savings banks, and consequently credit in Quebec?

• (9:50 p.m.)

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: I would be glad to consider this, Mr. Chairman.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: A supplementary question, Mr. Chairman. Do the caisses populaires come under the provisions of the Quebec Savings Bank Act?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: No, Mr. Chairman.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, very good questions can be put in that connection.

Can the minister tell the house exactly what difference there is between chartered banks and Quebec savings banks?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that my hon. friend knows that the lending powers represent the main difference.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I have another question.

In view of the fact that the minister has just stated that the difference between chartered banks and Quebec savings banks lies in the lending power, can he tell the house whether chartered banks lend a different kind of money than Quebec savings banks? Is the difference between these banks in the interest rates, or how does their lending power differ?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: The powers are different because of the legislation under which these institutions operate.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, these answers are preposterous. The Minister of Finance should state clearly the difference between the two.

The Chairman: Order. Is the hon. member making remarks within the limits of the debate, or is he putting a question to the Minister of Finance. As the hon. member knows, we have to take into consideration the time allowed the minister, and I am informed that his time has expired.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, we are only questioning the minister.

The Chairman: That is exactly what I was asking the hon. member for Villeneuve. Does he merely wish to ask questions or does he now want to take part in the debate?

Mr. Caouette: No, Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the Minister of Finance a few questions. We would like to know exactly what difference there is between the lending privileges of a chartered bank and those of a Quebec savings bank. Also, is there any difference between the privileges of a Quebec savings bank and those of the caisses populaires and between chartered banks and those two banking systems?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Chairman, I think this is a perfectly proper and reasonable request. Naturally the differences will be spelled out in great detail in the legislation. First reading has now been given to the revisions to the Bank Act, so my hon. friend will be able to see exactly what are the powers of the chartered banks. If we are able to deal with this resolution, the proposed changes to the Quebec Savings Bank Act, which are incorporated in the bill, will be available, and my hon. friend will be able to spend many interesting hours reading that bill, and will see