

*Bank of Canada Act*

present and future measures which would enable him to report to the people with an impeccable file.

For my part, I say to the minister that if he needs a computer, an electronic machine to complement or at least replace his feelings, this flair, I am willing to move an amendment to this Bank Act to allow him to buy an electronic computer to which he can then feed the required scientific data to obtain an adequate reply. It would be well worth it, because as things now stand, he says he follows his feelings and relies on his flair. With a computer he could go about it scientifically.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it would be worth it. I feel it may even be imperative that the Minister of Finance get a computer. Our economy can then be based not on haphazard or sentimental data, but on scientific data.

Mr. Chairman, on study of Section 1 of the bill to amend the Bank of Canada Act, I should like to limit myself to general considerations and reserve specific remarks for the detailed study section by section.

I asked the minister another question—

[*English*]

**Mr. Sharp:** Might I pose one first, Mr. Chairman? Might I ask whether the hon. member for Lapointe would comment upon the statement I made during our very interesting exchange in the committee when I said that Social Credit, if I may say so, seemed to me a sophisticated form of inflationary finance put forward most skilfully by people like the hon. member for Lapointe?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Chairman, I consider that interjection as a compliment, since the minister mentioned our ability in putting forward our doctrines, but it did not really require much ability, so simple it was to show and prove that the manner in which the Minister of Finance judges and appraises a monetary system is not normal.

When the minister tells us that he lets his feeling govern his actions, one does not have to be very smart to prove that it is not the right method of appraising the economic and monetary system.

On the other hand, when the minister says that he needs a computer, that is much more important. I feel one should be made available to the minister and it does not require much ability either to have everybody agree on that point, since the minister says he needs a computer in order to establish the monetary

[*Mr. Grégoire.*]

system on a scientific basis rather than on an emotional basis.

Well, Mr. Chairman—

**Mr. Chrétien:** If you will read out the whole sentence in which he referred to feel and flair, I think he concluded by saying that it was judgment. And this is not what the hon. member is showing at the present time.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Chairman, it would be necessary then, if there is a mistake in the report or in the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence—

**Mr. Chrétien:** Read further after "flair". You will see that he refers to judgment.

**Mr. Grégoire:** I will read out the sentence once more and if there is a mistake in it, well, the minister can tell us and we will correct it. And I quote, from page 2998, Mr. Sharp's sentence:

When a Governor of the Bank of England, Lord Norman, was once asked that question by J. M. Keynes, he said, "I do it by feel and flair" and I do think that to some extent that it remains a question of judgment.

And I read further on in the same paragraph:

There is no mathematical formula by which the money supply can be regulated.

No mathematical formula. And he quotes Lord Norman, who says: "I do it by feel and flair", but the Minister of Finance is not sure. He only thinks—"I do think"—that to some extent, but no more than to some extent, it remains a question of judgment. But only up to a point and no more, while the governor of the Bank of England says totally and completely by feel and flair.

The question of judgment is only to some extent, it is not certain—"I do think"—but only to some extent. And this supports what I was saying a while ago, that is that the minister operates by feel and flair. And if he needs a computer, we are ready to vote one to the Department of Finance, so that we may have a scientific monetary system instead of a sentimental monetary system such as we now have.

I shall resume my remarks which were interrupted by the brilliant parliamentary secretary of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien). When I see the Minister of Finance applauding, I wonder why he is applauding. Is it because his parliamentary secretary must have appealed to his feelings also? Because I