

these representations. But in the final analysis the people who have to determine the policy of this country are not the bankers' association; they are not the trades and labour congress; they are the government which represents the elected people of this country. As I say, the government is always willing to listen to the views of any group in this country, but the responsibility for determining what government policy will be lies with the government. Let me say that in budget matters or in matters of this kind there are obvious reasons why we cannot consult either with the bankers' association, the trades and labour congress or any other private group before determining what the policy will be.

Mr. SKEY: The minister has suggested in his reply that I was advocating that he should ask the advice of these various organizations. That was not my idea at all. I was merely asking the minister if they had been asked to give their views to the government in the same friendly way as the traders previously mentioned. It seems strange that we have the minister describing the welcome given to the trade delegations and import people, but when we come to the question of finance and the management of currency and exchange the minister shows some heat.

Mr. ABBOTT: The minister never shows heat.

Mr. SKEY: He showed some heat.

Mr. ABBOTT: Oh, no, never.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): The minister always has the same complexion?

Mr. ABBOTT: It is just the temperature.

Mr. SKEY: My question still remains unanswered. Has the minister had representations from the heads of the various financial organizations and has he had their opinion with regard to the measure now under discussion?

Mr. ABBOTT: If one may judge the published annual reports of most of the chartered banks, they appear to approve the action which the government has taken.

Mr. SKEY: Oh, oh.

Mr. ABBOTT: My hon. friend may smile, but I have read the reports. Perhaps he might usefully do so. These reports are pretty capable documents. If he reads them carefully he will find he gets a lot of useful information from them. I do not think there is any criticism of the action which the government has taken on this particular issue.

[Mr. Abbott.]

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): May I compliment the minister on his eloquent presentation of the elementary principles of responsible government. You know sir, one needs to attain a professorial attitude to give us the great truths that he gave us just now which, of course, we all learned in the first grade when we went to school.

Mr. ABBOTT: Not all.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Quite apart from that, I have three questions to ask, but, first, with respect to the minister's answer about the statements of the banks, may I say that they were prepared, although not published, long before he took the measures he is talking about.

Mr. ABBOTT: Not all of them.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I want to ask three simple questions, not in the realm of high finance which we have been dealing with just recently because I confess I do not understand large figures. I know something about refrigerators; I know something about fireworks, and I know something about one other subject. I want to ask the minister a question first about fireworks because, if I heard him correctly, he mentioned that fireworks had been taken from the prohibited list and put on a quota basis. I understood him to say that just a moment ago. I speak to him now on behalf of an organization known as The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. I wrote him a letter about the matter today; at least I was sent a copy of a letter that was sent to him. Perhaps, sir, knowing as you do how wonderful our facilities are for getting our mail out I should have said I dictated a letter today. I may send it out in the course of the next couple of weeks, granted that I get it back again—I do not know so much about that. But may I assume from what he said a moment ago that this government would grant an expenditure of \$7,500 to the one event in the Dominion of Canada, by way of entertainment, including your Toronto exhibition—

Mr. SKEY: The Canadian National.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): All right. This is the first time I have ever known anyone from Toronto who would not accept credit even though it was not due. They call it the Canadian National. What I am saying is that the exhibition at Calgary attracts more real United States dollars than any other single event in the country. It is a matter of great importance, not national importance—I am fed up with this national business. We