

*Bank of Canada Act*

the creation of credit and money should be left in the hands of the chartered banks which are private enterprises and which have this exclusive privilege and who use this creation of credit for their own purposes. Now, the chartered banks create credit, as the minister himself admitted it.

● (10:00 p.m.)

We do not want this creation of credit left to some large chartered banks who would use it not for the benefit of the population as a whole, but for their own interest, for their own benefit.

At the same time, if this creation of credit were put under the control or in the hands of the Bank of Canada, this crown agency would not act in its own interest or for the benefit of some big capitalists; to the contrary, it would act in the public interest and for the benefit of every Canadian. This is the fundamental difference.

A state bank like the Bank of Canada should control and regulate itself the creation of credit in favour of the population of Canada, whereas actually the private banks, that is the chartered banks do so to their own benefit and in their own interest whenever they can.

We are against this, because creation of credit is probably and certainly the most important factor of our economic life.

Second, we have asked the government and the minister which criteria the Bank of Canada and the government itself use to determine the money supply. It is useless to say that we were not satisfied with the replies given, since everything is run in a haphazard way, without any directives and there is nothing really scientific which would serve to determine the money supply which is needed.

To us, this is very important because upon the amount of money supply will depend the economical expansion of the country, the buoyancy of the country as well as the prosperity of every Canadian.

Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that the minister and his government chose not to take into consideration those two determining factors in our growing Canadian economy. It is regrettable. We believe the Minister of Finance should have taken those suggestions into serious consideration, because the objective here is to enable every Canadian citizen to live decently, honourably, with dignity and

[Mr. Grégoire.]

liberty and to enjoy security in a country fabulously wealthy, capable of ensuring that each and every one living here can live decently and honourably.

If the minister is bent on holding up our system to ridicule, well, let him find another one under which can be achieved the objectives for which any economic system is established, that is to ensure that all Canadian citizens can live decently, honourably and with dignity. That is what we expect from our Canadian economy. We have had one opportunity since yesterday—for the first time in 12 years to express those ideas to the government. It chose to ignore them, not to act on them. We are sorry about that. Now, it will be up to the Canadian people, to the people of Quebec to pass judgment on the attitude of the minister, on the policy of the government in that field. The people will continue to ask: what is the use of having a prosperous country if that prosperity is not reflected in fact in the lives of its citizens? What is the use of having such bounteous natural resources in Canada, if Canadian citizens can not share them and benefit from them? That is what we would like to achieve through our suggestions to the Minister of Finance.

We regret that these suggestions have not been heard. We shall let the people judge and they will be capable of deciding whether it is normal, logical and reasonable to live poorly in such a rich and prosperous country. What would bring this prosperity in our Canadian homes would be an adequate economic and monetary system. But there are some who do not want our monetary system to be adequate. They tell the Canadian people: keep on bearing it and living in misery in the midst of plenty.

It is now for the Canadian people to judge the minister and the present government.

[English]

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 10 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 11—*Fiscal agent of Canadian government.*

[Translation]

**Mr. Latulippe:** Mr. Chairman, I point out that it is ten o'clock. We have an amendment to move on clause 11. We will have the opportunity of moving it tomorrow and discussing this section.