

*Amalgamation of Loan and Trust Companies*

Because they want to do something, that does not mean it is right.

Unfortunately, because of the workings of our committee system, members cannot always attend certain committee meetings and know what is said in relation to questions one may have asked. I have been interested in the proliferation of our financial institutions, but not so much in terms of the services they render. I believe that every small community should have a financial institution that can be used for the needs and services in their area.

● (1710)

Every time we look at it, we get another bank. We will soon have banks coming out of our ears. Over the years we allowed the number of banks to decrease to the point where there were only five major ones. There are now 11, and there are requests for two more banks or pseudo-banks to be instituted. It is important that we consider whether this is, or is not, in the national interest.

In the case of this institution, a trust company—which in many ways is pseudo-bank—is amalgamating with a loan company. Our legislation is such that that kind of merger cannot take place without special permission by way of a bill. We are extending the method that this institution will have to raise money that was not available to them to the same degree when they were two separate parts. My interest, and I am sure this is the interest of the sponsor of the bill, is that the moneys raised in the maritimes by this new institution be available to the people of that area. During second reading the mover of the motion stated that this would allow this new financial institution to go into the money markets of Toronto, Montreal—

**An hon. Member:** And New York.

**Mr. Peters:** I am not sure whether the New York market was involved. It was, however, to be allowed to move into some of the other Canadian financial markets. If this institution is allowed to operate in those markets it may have the tendency to drain off the savings in a limited area. The banks do this in other areas. Rather than make expenditures where the loans are made, they invest the money in shopping centres, high-rise apartments and other forms of adventure capitalization. This does not help those in the area where the loans were accumulated.

Members representing constituencies such as that represented by the hon. member for Gloucester or my constituency in northern Ontario must be concerned about facilities to invest in the institution through deposits or otherwise for the people of that area. Top priority should be given to the benefits being available in the area in which the funds are accumulated. That was the justification for the Western Bank, the British Columbia Bank, the ethnic bank—

**An hon. Member:** The left bank.

**Mr. Peters:** I am interested in the interjections being made by the Conservatives. I presume that in the near future they will have specific desires to proliferate this field. I think even they would agree that when the rich have a bank of their own, they will want to invest for the rich rather than giving their money to the poor. This has

[Mr. Peters.]

been the wish of those starting new financial institutions. I would have been pleased if the sponsor had indicated whether those discussions took place in committee and whether they received a favourable response from the loan company and the trust company being amalgamated under this bill.

I wish this institution every success. I hope it does make its investments in the maritimes and will continue to show favouritism in the area where the money is deposited, as there is a great need there for capital expenditures.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** With your permission, Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, we agree to calling it six o'clock unless there is any possibility that the House will agree to give third reading to Bill C-208 which is on the order paper in the name of the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. MacGuigan). Believe it or not, he has given me authority to move it on his behalf. This is the bill having to do with Heritage Day.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There does not seem to be unanimous consent that we proceed with Bill C-208. Is there unanimous consent to call it six o'clock?

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Speaker, under normal procedure we would be proceeding to that item for discussion.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** On that same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if there would be unanimous consent to carry on with the public business and continue with Bill C-69. There would certainly be no objection to that.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** We would agree to that, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Speaker, under the rules of the House the next item of business should be called.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** If I follow the suggestion made by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters), because there are no other private bills we must proceed to the second item which is notices of motions, papers, page 64 of last Monday's order paper.