

Lobbyists Registration Act

nuclear proliferation treaty. In all seriousness, we must give people in this society the other point of view in a fair and equitable way. This is what this Bill is for.

What about the lost opportunity costs of this Bill, the things we could do if we chose not to buy the submarines to chase dope importers and fish violators? If we did not want to use the money for nuclear submarines, our municipalities in Canada could create tens of thousands of person-years of work by improving municipal infrastructures. They have pleaded for that program. Health care in this country is in a crisis situation. Some of that \$16 billion could be used to help people receive coronary bypasses in a timely way with elective surgery. Education is in chaos. The \$16 billion could help there.

I know my colleague from the Conservative Party, the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Saanich, is getting more and more frustrated and wants to get up and speak on this issue so I will close by saying the situation is critical. Lobbying is the issue and the friends of the Prime Minister and the powerful interests should not be the only ones who get their message out.

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the motion put forth by the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) and the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) has been discussed time and time again, most recently by the legislative committee. The motion requires the lobbyist to disclose the subject matter of his or her lobbying. As the Minister said repeatedly, the interests behind these lobbyists are generally long known.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take much imagination to realize that Mrs. Judy Erola, who is President of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada, is interested in the pharmaceutical industry. That is pretty obvious, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

In drafting this Bill, we had four guiding principles, openness, clarity, access to Government and administrative simplicity. What the New Democratic Party are proposing in its amendment will create what we call an administrative nightmare. It is unbelievable to think that the people who are doing the right thing, which is lobbying, will have to suffer an administrative process whereby it would be impossible to find the end of it.

I want to be brief in my comments because I am sure the Minister will at third reading of the Bill make the points about why we tabled this important legislation, Bill C-82. You may ask if this Bill is perfect, Mr. Speaker, I do not know. That is why we put in a three-year review, so we can find out if there are problems after that time and make the necessary improvements.

In summary, this Bill proposes a lobbyist registry with some basic, and, I think, important attributes. If we have not gone

far enough, as some critics suggest, then Parliament has a perfect opportunity in three years to revisit the system and make improvements. I call for the vote on the amendments now, Mr. Speaker.

● (1250)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): The question is on Motion No. 4 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): Pursuant to Standing Order 114(11), the recorded division on the motion stands deferred.

The next question is on Motion No. 6.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cooper): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen: