

get arms and explosives to make that attempt more vicious and murderous than ever. Peaceful protesters in the U.S. speaking out against the administration in the U.S. might come under investigation, and if they were to flee to Canada for safety they would, as a result of this Bill, be investigated by those organizations here in Canada.

I do not want to take up valuable time on this legislation because the same points will be made at subsequent stages. Let me say that I believe Members of the House recognize that the few points I have made in the last moment or two are sufficient to warrant voting against this Bill in its present form. Certainly everything I have heard so far indicates that this Bill is inappropriate. We should not pass this Bill. The Government should go back to the drafting board and draft a Bill which is fair, just, decent and compassionate and bring it forward. For goodness' sakes, let us stop this Bill from proceeding and get on with the real business of Canada.

• (1600)

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

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Riis: On division.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Administration of justice—Sentence in Quebec National Assembly murder case—Call for reform of criminal law; the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation—Coverage of registered retirement savings plans—Request for amendment to legislation; the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier)—The Constitution—1987 Constitution accord—Language minority groups—Representation of language minority groups in public service.

Mint and Currency

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT ACT AND CURRENCY ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Right Hon. Joe Clark (for the Minister of Supply and Services) moved that Bill C-46, an Act to amend the Royal Canadian Mint Act and the Currency Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Ron Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-46 is designed to accomplish several specific objectives which I will outline in a moment. When considered in their entirety, however, three general themes are evident. Certain housekeeping measures are proposed to consolidate, within one piece of legislation, and to modernize all technical matters pertaining to coins. Second, several proposals are included to improve financial arrangements for the Mint and to give it more operational flexibility. Finally, several modifications are proposed to provide a framework for new marketing initiatives the Mint may wish to pursue.

Among legislative housekeeping matters relating to coinage, I believe it is desirable to simplify the approval process for minor changes in size and composition of existing Canadian circulating coins. Governor in council authority to effect such changes will allow the Mint to respond relatively quickly to situations of metal shortages and to benefit from new technologies, thereby ensuring adequate supplies of domestic coinage and positive seignorage revenues. As well, all technical matters, some of which are now found in the Currency Act, should be consolidated within the Mint Act while leaving the primary responsibility for matters relating to our monetary system with the Minister of Finance.

Among the second group of proposals to improve the financial and operational flexibility of the Mint is an amendment that would permit the Mint to bank in the private sector. Current practice whereby the Mint conducts its financial transactions through a special account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund distorts the Mint's true financial picture by not recognizing interest which could be earned on deposits. Additionally, most of the Mint's financial transactions are in foreign currencies, and being allowed to make its own direct arrangements for these transactions would be administratively and financially advantageous to the Mint.

To create a proper capital structure the Minister is proposing to permit the Mint to issue \$40 million in shares which would be purchased by the Minister of Supply and Services. These shares would be redeemable at face value. This would provide the Mint with a level of capitalization to meet its needs consistent with accepted norms for determining private sector capitalization financing requirements.