

Government Orders

and rolled into another agency loses its priority and drops to the bottom. We wind up seeing things like the Deputy Prime Minister in the House today attacking the unemployed. Nothing could be more false, absolutely immoral than what was done in the House today and yesterday in attacking the unemployed and blaming them for the problem.

My colleague the Solicitor General says that is nonsense. There are members of the Conservative caucus who are talking actively today about how to get the Prime Minister to change this kind of attack on the unemployed in Canada.

An hon. member: It will end up in cabinet tomorrow.

Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River): At any rate whether he is yelling and shouting about this, it is a case where this government is blaming the unemployed for the nature of the economy when the responsibility is clearly with the government. I would say that the yelling and the screaming from the Solicitor General points to guilt rather than any serious attempt to refute the charge.

Hopefully, in dealing with the international academic relations program and the Social Science Research Council of Canada, this too will be one of the things that is reconsidered. Those two agencies will remain separate, apart and able to function with the human and financial resources to do this. With that I will conclude my remarks.

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): Mr. Speaker, following up on the member's comments on part III of this particular bill which winds up the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, I note that in 1979, after extensive consultations and studies, these programs were moved out of the Canada Council and into the present Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Concern has been expressed both by Canadian and international academics that this funding will not be maintained through this aspect.

I note also that this particular thrust was done not after any consultation at all, but was announced unilaterally in the budget of 1992.

I wonder if the member would have any comment on the consultative process and whether, in fact, he has any

comment with respect to the lack of consultation this time around and the full consultations of the last time.

Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, there is a volume of correspondence but I will not go through it. The International Council for Canadian Studies has written to the Prime Minister with reference to the transfers we are talking about, and it says: "Such a transfer will prove costly and ineffective. It is an instrument of Canadian foreign policy and enjoys the full co-operation of academics abroad". The question involves Canada's reputation.

There are numerous letters from the social science groups in Canada stating the same thing. The social science research groups are very critical of being rolled into this multi-tasked agency and deprived of resources will become completely ineffective. This is not our judgment, we are simply repeating the judgments of the many people who are going to be asked to judge the Conservative government in the next election when it comes.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, although a number of issues were addressed in the changes that are being brought about by the mergers of many of the programs that were addressed by my colleagues on all sides of the House, I would like to speak to one issue in very short measure and the second matter, with respect to the Canada Council and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council in a little bit more depth.

As I speak to Bill C-93, an act to implement certain government organization provisions of the budget tabled in the House on February 25, I am quite sure members are aware that the purpose of this bill is to implement the government's decision to merge these Crown corporation and agencies.

• (1330)

The reason that the government did this, it said, was to be more efficient through these cost cutting measures. The question and the measure shall indicate that on the one hand one undertaking seems to have been well thought through, the second certainly merits some serious reconsideration.

With respect to the Copyright Board and the Trademark Opposition Board, which will be known as the intellectual property tribunal, I have not had too many complaints. I have had next to no concern expressed about this particular merger, which is quite fascinating seeing as how we are in the midst of doing a piece of