

think the debate may have been useful, the chance to express a point of view, but government members intend to vote nay on this motion because we think it has been handled in other ways and we think there was unanimous agreement in the committee to handle it in other ways. Therefore, I would encourage government members to vote no on this motion.

• (1030)

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, let me begin by congratulating you on your earlier ruling. I think it was a most auspicious beginning to your first day in the chair and I commend you for it.

To respond briefly to what the government House Leader just said: I am sorry, I was not at that committee meeting. I did not read the transcript of the committee meeting. I had no knowledge of what proceeded in the committee. However, I am delighted that, regardless of the agency, this amendment is now before this House because I think it is an important and valuable one, one certainly worthy of the attention of this House. If its coming here distresses some members who feel that that is in some fashion improper, that is indeed regrettable. I think nonetheless that it is a good thing that this amendment be here because it addresses in some senses what will lie at the heart of this Canadian Centre for Management Development.

If I may, Madam Speaker, I would like just briefly to note the nature of the clause that the amendment seeks to amend. It reads:

Appointments under section 8—

That is the section that allows the governor to appoint people to the board of the centre.

—shall be made so that, of the governors other than the Chair, there are equal numbers of persons who are employed in the Public Service and persons who are not so employed.

That is the sole restriction set out in clause 9, the clause of the bill that the amendment seeks to amend.

The amendment would have the effect of adding certain other criteria, those criteria being, and I am quoting from the amendment now, that there would be: “equal numbers of persons who are employed in the public sector and persons who are not so employed”.

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That remains. Then it goes on: “of the governors employed in the Public Service”, in other words of that half employed in the Public Service, “equal numbers of persons who are managers and persons who are not managers”, and third and finally, and in some senses most important, “persons who reflect the diversity of Canadian society”.

As the subclause now stands, it would be in no wise inconsistent with the bill to have the board of governors composed entirely of management personnel, half of them drawn from the Public Service and half of them drawn from the private sector, perhaps at the suggestion of the Business Council on National Issues. In fact, it would be utterly consistent with the bill to have a board composed entirely of middle-aged, white, male managers from the Public Service and middle-aged, white, male managers from the private sector. That would in no way conflict with the bill, except when we read in clause 4 of the bill the objects and powers of the centre.

I would like to recall a couple of those objects to the attention of the House here. They are:

4(b) to help ensure that managers in the Public Service have the analytical, creative, advisory, administrative and other managerial skills and knowledge necessary to develop and implement policy, respond to change, including changes in the social, cultural, racial and linguistic character of Canadian society, and manage government programs, services and personnel efficiently, effectively and equitably;

Clause 4(d) reads:

(d) to develop within the Public Service and to attract to the Public Service, through the Centre's programs and studies, persons who are of high calibre and who reflect the diversity of Canadian society,

These are tasks with which this Parliament proposes to charge this Canadian Centre for Management Development. Yet, in the board that this bill will establish to oversee the operations of the centre, there are no substantially similar criteria.

I am not saying, Madam Speaker, that the board will be unable to meet these objects if it is not required more adequately to reflect the diversity of Canadian society, indeed to reflect the diversity of those groups that require and rely upon an efficiently functioning Canadian Public Service, well and effectively managed by well-trained, well-developed managers who are familiar with the needs, the aspirations, the desires and the