

Private Members' Business

nization and co-ordination of accounting and auditing standards.

This bill is the result of lengthy consultation, co-operation and careful review. The bill has been approved by the Canadian Institute's board of governors on which sit representatives of all provincial institutes. It incorporates the CICA's mission statement and its statement of objectives and powers, and reflects fully the agreed division of responsibilities between the provincial institutes of chartered accountants and the CICA. The process of reform which brings this bill before the House was endorsed by the CICA's annual general meeting held in St. John's, Newfoundland, in August 1988.

This bill establishes a clear and modern set of powers and objectives which will help to lead the chartered accountancy profession into the next century. By recognizing the scope and importance of the activities carried on by the institute, and by CAs generally, we believe the proposed amendments are worthy of the support of this House.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to take part in the debate on second reading of Bill S-10, an Act respecting the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, a bill that is to be referred to a legislative committee.

First of all, I speak also as an accountant by profession, although not a member of CICA but of the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada, one of three professional accountants' organizations incorporated under an Act of Parliament. The hon. member tended to sing the praises of his association. As a CGA, Mr. Speaker, I shall, if I may, without taking too much of your time, say there are three accounting organizations in Canada whose members are either certified general accountants, certified management accountants or chartered accountants. These three groups have the same status with respect to the international standardization process. I may add that there are about 40,000 CGAs, including both members and students, in this country. Mr. Speaker, I must say I agree with the hon. member that we should pass the bill on second reading and then consider the legislation in a legislative committee, to give

representatives of the other associations, the CGAs and the CMAs, a chance to make some major submissions.

• (1740)

Mr. Speaker, the CAs are trying to update their statutes and regulations. However, when we read those sections, it becomes clear—this is nothing new, and I am thinking of the situation in the province of Quebec—that the CICA is trying to have a monopoly on the profession in Canada.

This is quite obvious, Mr. Speaker, when we read in section 2.:

(1) The purpose of the Institute is to promote by all lawful means the practice of accountancy within Canada.

(2) In carrying out its purpose, the Institute has all the powers necessary—

This is followed, Mr. Speaker, by a list of the powers it needs to carry out its purpose. In most cases—I am not going to read the whole thing because it would take too long—the section refers to the membership and how they should conduct themselves. I will give an example:

(b) to assist and encourage provincial, territorial and affiliated institutes in promoting and developing appropriate and uniform standards of qualification for admission to membership therein

Paragraph (c) reads and I quote:

(c) to create and improve standards of financial accounting, reporting and auditing;

It does not refer to the membership. So when we are talking about the profession, the CICA speaks for the whole country, and when we are talking about internal standards, the CICA refers to its membership. I think it is clear from this bill that the CICA is trying to get a monopoly on the accounting and auditing profession in Canada.

I am sure that the other two organizations, the CGAs and the CMAs, will be anxious to appear before the legislative committee to make their representations. We really must correct those— It seems the president of the CICA said he was not seeking a monopoly position for the Institute. If he is not, this should be made clear in the Act, because the present legislation, Mr. Speaker—

[*English*]

There is a monopoly perception. It is very clear in the legislation where it says: