

Financial Administration Act

to be convincing enough. Great progress has also been made in the establishment of the ombudsman office in many areas of the world. The ombudsman idea began in Sweden. The office has been instituted in Denmark, in Norway, in the United Kingdom, in New Zealand and in many other countries and states as well. We now have an ombudsman in Quebec. I believe the worth of the office has already been substantiated. There are also ombudsmen in Alberta, New Brunswick and Manitoba, and bills to establish similar offices are before the legislatures of other provinces. The office also exists in Hawaii as well as in several other states of the United States. It is a very interesting fact that on at least 25 large university campuses there are campus ombudsmen. I could list the names of these universities if I had time. Where universities have taken the lead in this direction a very beneficial effect has resulted in the morale of the student population. I could mention other areas in which an ombudsman or an official or agency with similar functions have been established. There is the procurator of justice in the Soviet Union, and the presidential complaints committee in the Philippines; in Japan there is the bureau of civil liberties with commissioners in every precinct and district.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Continue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is it agreed that the hon. member may continue his presentation?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you very much. I will close with a sentence or two. Even in the United States military, which is plagued with the problem of draft-dodgers and deserters, the Inspector General of the United States army performs a similar duty to that of the military ombudsman in Sweden.

Finally, the Auditor General does now carry a parliamentary responsibility in Canada in relation strictly to financial matters, and his office could be easily expanded to include this office. The rapid expansion of the civil service and the extension of administrative authority demands a means of protection for the individual. Such protection of civil liberties has not kept pace with the growth of bureaucracy. I commend this bill to the favourable attention of the House. I believe that though it is a very small step it

[Mr. Thompson.]

is a very vital step. Hon. members are being asked to extend the functions and terms of reference of the auditor general to include the normal duties associated with the office of ombudsman as they relate to administrative matters.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. It is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 4, to inform the House that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: The hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski)—Films; the hon. member for Brandon Souris (Mr. Dinsdale)—Indian Affairs; the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle)—Energy, Mines and Resources.

The House will now pursue its study of Bill C-40, an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH OFFICE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Thompson that Bill C-40 to amend the Financial Administration Act (Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, this is one of the subject matters which came to me in my former responsibility as President of the Privy Council in view of the fact that I shared with the Minister of Justice the responsibility for considering and advising the government on not so much the narrow question of the ombudsman but, really, the process for the review of administrative action which included among other things within my own responsibility, the evolving procedure for examining statutory instruments upon which we shall be having a bill and also a motion for a change in the stand-