

A certain tradition has lasted long enough; when a member was tired of sitting in the House of Commons, or if there was one minister too many in the cabinet, he was transferred to the Senate and the matter was settled.

I think that kind of tradition has lasted long enough. I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, that I would be in favour of that kind of solution. I would rather be appointed immediately, and not once I have become a minister. I would not resent it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the new generation of those who have been appointed in the past few years. People have been appointed who had never dealt in politics, who had not been elected members of the House of Commons. I am thinking of Senator Goldenberg who, I repeat, was extremely competent in his own field, who settled several conflicts in Canada, who was also of great help to us in dealing with problems, and who, in addition is counsellor for several members from all parties.

Several Senators are competent and apt to prompt members of the House into honest judgments.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that saying that one is in favour of or against the Senate is not the right way to deal with that problem. Considering the quality of the members of the Senate, I think we should ask for their opinion about it. Solutions would be a lot more constructive. Before making hara-kiri, they too will weigh every consequence of their action, including those of a personal nature for sure.

As I said before, those consequences do not seem to matter very much to them. Their preoccupations seem to dwell mainly in intellectual spheres. At that level, they are also in a way ombudsmen for citizens from every region.

Let us imagine, Mr. Speaker, and let us hope this will remain a blank conjecture, that a majority government be elected by two provinces of Canada only. If a government were to be elected by two provinces in Canada only, and if, moreover, that government used its power to legislate according strictly to its own will in favour of those two provinces, then the Senate would have a part to play. That is the kind of possibility which would make me think twice before abolishing the Senate, because I feel that those men could then play a protective role and represent all the areas of Canada.

If a government, because of the constitution, a democratic vice, took unfair advantage of the situation, the senators could say, because they are not answerable to the people: Listen, gentlemen of the government, you are in the process of favouring one part only of the country, because of your power—assuming the government had been appointed by two provinces only—you should perhaps start to be more realistic and think of the country as a whole.

To my mind, its role is much more—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Olivier: Mr. Speaker, I can understand that some hon. members should be eager to vote for or against the abolition of the Senate. Still, to my mind, the matter is more important—

Federal Business Development Bank Act

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order. The time allotted for private members' hour having expired I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH CORPORATION

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved that Bill C-14, to incorporate the Federal Business Development Bank, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in July of last year I announced in general terms some important measures to encourage and assist further the establishment and growth of Canadian small business. In order to implement those measures Bill C-14 was tabled on October 7, 1974, to provide for the creation of a new Crown corporation which will bear the name "Federal Business Development Bank". The main body of the bill, with minor alterations, is the same which was tabled as Bill C-20 during the last session of parliament. Hon. members will recall that at that time that bill received second reading. Because there are a large number of new members in this parliament, and because there are two additional clauses to the bill, I think it wise to deal with the introduction of second reading rather more fully than otherwise might have been considered necessary.

I propose to deal with the bill under six different headings; the powers and the criteria governing the use of the powers of the Federal Business Development Bank; management counselling—services to be offered; management training; information services; organizational structure; and financing arrangements.

Before moving to these separate sections, I should like to provide a little background to the purposes and philosophy behind this new institution. It has been the result of a very careful assessment of the requirements of small business. This assessment has been based on the considerable experience which the government has gained with a range of programs designed to meet specific needs and which it has introduced over the years. What the Federal Business Development Bank does is to combine a number of these programs, give them new thrust and orientation, and provide a new organizational structure and guidelines under which it will be operated in a co-ordinated manner.

The new bank will provide a focal point for information, management counselling, training and financing. Small