

Mr. Pepin: They changed their mind.

Mr. Matte: They changed their mind?

Mr. Pepin: Yes.

Mr. Matte: Then I am glad that there were consultations with this association before the bill was drafted.

● (4:50 p.m.)

The previous speaker's argument, to the effect that a private association can protect some private interests at the expense of general interests is valid to some extent, for such a thing is always possible. So it probably behoves the government to concern itself with such standards, in order that they may really be objective. But one could perhaps seriously wonder if it might not be better to alter the existing organization so as to make it more efficient and more or less a Crown corporation. Maybe it could be done.

When referring to the content of the letter sent out by that Association, one can but conclude that the latter seems well-structured and provides several services. Therefore, we could perhaps change it a little.

As far as this bill is concerned, you may say what you like, but if it is the government's intention to have it passed, we know very well it will pass. Therefore, I will allow myself to point out some aspects that could be improved upon or simply deleted. Referring to the bill, I note for instance that the Council would consist of, and I quote:

(a) six members who are employed in the public service of Canada,

(b) ten members, one member to be nominated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of each of the ten provinces, and

(c) not more than forty-one other members—

Mr. Speaker, that Council will have not more than 57 members and we are sure of one thing, namely that it will have only one representative per province.

Therefore, the following could happen, that Quebec, for instance, would have only one member out of 57 to represent it within that Canadian Council.

I wonder whether it might not be advisable to add to clause 3(c) which reads as follows:

(c) not more than forty-one other members—

—the words: "chosen on a pro rata basis in the provinces", for standardization will affect all sorts of things, weights and measures, the quality and performance of goods, and industrial and commercial methods and practices.

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I am still referring to clause 4(c) which reads as follows:

(c) industrial and commercial methods and practices—

It may happen, Mr. Speaker, that some standards are related somewhat to the ethnic groups. Indeed, it is quite possible that in industrial and commercial fields, some standards might be particularly related to Quebec, because that province is in the majority made up of French Canadians. And so, with regard to the number of members on the council which is to be established, the provinces and especially Quebec should be adequately represented. We would thus avoid the differences and quarrels that are always liable to occur.

The bill does, indeed, say "voluntary". These standards should not, however, compel manufacturers to bring about any changes in products which have now caught the fancy of the public.

As for clause 4(a), we certainly agree it is high time to think of changing our present system of weights and measures—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. It being 5 o'clock and under the special order passed today about tonight's budget speech, Mr. Matte moved, seconded by Mr. Winch, that the House do now adjourn.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): It being five o'clock the House will proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, notices of motions (papers), private bills and public bills.

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, at the request of the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) we have agreed to stand the first two notices of motions, Nos. 203 and 204. I believe the hon. member sponsoring notice of motion No. 141, the third from the top on the Order Paper, is ready to proceed. Perhaps Your Honour might call that notice of motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.