

*Standards Council of Canada*

These comments are from successful businessmen in the industry. Here is another from the president of a company involved in the electronics industry. He says:

It is our feeling that the cost of another government set-up to do this would be another big expense to the people of Canada, which is overburdened at the present time.

This substantiates what I said earlier. Then I have a letter from a manufacturer of home freezers. It is very interesting to note that 80 per cent of the home freezers manufactured in Canada are made within a radius of 20 miles of Guelph, Ont. So, I come from the home freezer area. The letter reads:

—this smacks terribly of preparation for state-control. Competition is doing a marvellous job in bringing to the market better quality products. Competition is continually striving to produce better sizes, better shapes, better content, better performance and better Canadian goods.

My first and major objection to setting up this new council is that of finances. Canada is already living away beyond her means. No new commissions or councils should be set up. Government should curtail expenses everywhere it can, but a lot of its staff and wherever possible renege on commitments that never should have been made.

We must remember that these letters are from successful business people. Let us get our ears tuned in to the man on the street, the manufacturer, and the person who has to produce income in order to pay the income tax in this country. Let us get tuned in to these people and not just sit in an ivory tower like the people who dream up these ideas for new councils, new organizations and everything else. Let us think about these people who are trying to make Canada grow and produce the dollar bills with which to pay the salaries of government people. It is time we were tuned in to these people. This gentleman goes on to say:

We are likely in the near future to adopt the decimal system. This is going to bring a lot of changes. Now let's not try to make changes too fast. We have present standards for safety of electro-equipment, gas equipment etc., etc. We have standards for quality in foods, meat inspection, food inspection. We have standards to prevent distribution of diseases. We have standards for drugs. I do not think we need any more standards right now. What we need is to correct some of the other problems which are far greater and of far more importance to this country.

I am quite satisfied that any further standards we need which are necessary to progress and international trade can be brought about by existing organizations and we don't need to set up a super council to look after this.

The Canadian Standards Association, which has been in operation for many years and which has done a very good job, has sent

[Mr. Hales.]

letters to most Members of Parliament stating that this bill is not in the best interest of the public in so far as standards activities in Canada are concerned.

The Canadian Lumbermen's Association states their reasons for believing that such a council is not necessary at this time. I believe the amendment of the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate is an extremely good one. It would give a six months' hoist to the bill. If we were to do this, I am sure we would hear from many more manufacturers in this country to the effect that such a council is not necessary at this time. I shall vote in favour of the amendment, but in any event I sincerely hope the government will seriously consider completely redrafting the bill or sitting down at the table with representatives of the Canadian Standards Association, as it now exists, to talk this over rather than try to push the bill through against the will of what would appear to be a great many people in this country.

• (3:30 p.m.)

I think that with those few remarks I will simply quote one paragraph from a letter from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Again, I wish to emphasize the great value of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the opportunity they have to gather information, thought and leadership from those in the trades. They are well tuned into what is going on and know far more in this respect than the government or the people who sit in ivory towers and think up these ideas. The paragraph reads:

Our Executive Council recommends that the government should not establish the presently proposed Standards Council of Canada, but should instead appoint a voluntary co-ordinating body comprising members from primary and secondary industries; distributive and service industries; consumer associations; the academic community; federal, provincial and municipal governments; to work with existing standards agencies to protect the consumer and assist the manufacturer in those areas of standardization the government considers essential.

I will conclude by saying that, judging from the letters and information I have received, there seems to be no need for this piece of legislation now and I fail to see why the government has introduced it. Many things are more pressing in Canada today. We do not have the money to implement the provisions of this bill and its objectives are not clearly outlined. There seems to be confusion, frustration, overlapping and duplication in this area.