

Adjournment Debate

on April 23 when he said everybody wants to go metric. Of those 45 people 13 voters are from foreign countries representing foreign manufacturers of metric weigh scales which they cannot sell in their own countries. The United States of America is represented, Japanese products are represented and other foreign manufacturers are represented.

Let me give you an example of some of these who say, "Aye, we want metric in Canada on January 1." Let me break down the 45 voters. Thirteen voters are representatives of foreign manufacturers of metric weigh scales. Why would they not want metric in Canada? They cannot sell these darn scales in the United States, Japan or in Holland. They might as well dump them here in Canada. We are the guinea pigs for the metric conversion programs of all these foreign internationals. There are 11 government votes by paid civil servants. They vote "aye, we want metric on January 1". Of those 11 government voters, six are from the Metric Commission, all drawing salaries because of their mandate to force metric on the people of Canada. Four of these 11 government voters are from the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I could read their names into *Hansard*. I will turn them over to *Hansard*. Can you imagine, there is even a man from the Post Office who is voting us metric in the retail food sector. If you add them up, you have 13 foreign companies manufacturing weigh scales in other countries wanting to dump them here in Canada, and 11 votes by government civil servants, making a total of 24.

How many retail grocers are there who vote for metric on that special group called the working group on scales in the retail food industry? There are 21 retail grocers in that group who are not happy. How did those 21 retail grocers vote, Mr. Speaker? They sent a directive to all three of those ministers opposite telling them they do not wish to proceed with metric on January 1 in the retail food sector. I have copies of the communiqués. They have been relayed to the ministers by Mr. Boire, the executive director of the Metric Commission. He has advised the minister that the retail food sector does not want to go metric on January 1.

● (2215)

This government and all three ministries responsible, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Ministry of State for Small Businesses and Tourism, are forcing metric on the people of Canada. They are forcing the French Systems International metric. Bolts from Japan will not fit nuts from Germany, and here we have Systems International. There are ten forms of metric, and we picked the dog of the works. We do not want metric; the government does. Even the Metric Commission has recommended to the government that it not proceed.

I will read the following one-sentence communiqué from the "Metric Minutes" of the Metric Commission dated May 7, 1981:

The retail food industry members of the Working Group wish to recommend strongly to the government that the scheduling of retail food scale conversion to metric units in Canada, which appeared in *The Canada Gazette* Part I of

February 28, 1981, be delayed so that conversion will take place at a time closer to when retail food scales will be converted in the United States.

What does the government say in answer to that? What does the parliamentary secretary say? I do not want to hear the hogwash we heard on April 23 that everyone wants metric. Who wants metric? Is it the French who want metric, or is it the Canadian grocers who want metric? I defy the government to name one organization, one corporation, one independent businessman, one consumer group, one retail council or one anything which wants metric in Canada forced on it and Canadian imperial measurement made illegal on January 1.

What Canadians want fines, lockups, imprisonment or confiscation of equipment on January 1, all done by order in council or regulation? No legislation has been fully debated in this House. There has been no legislation forcing metric on the Canadian people. This is being done dictatorially by this Liberal government, which is bound and determined to force on the Canadian people a French system of metric which is only one of ten systems being used. Foreign multinationals including McDonnell Douglas, the manufacturer of the CF-18A, have given up. That firm has gone totally imperial. The CF-16 was a disaster in metric. They could not even order parts. No one supports Systems International except France. Why are we going to SI metric in the weigh scale business in Canada? Why are we buying foreign multinational weigh scales to the tune of \$564 million worth of industry created in another country?

Who does this satisfy? Does it satisfy the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau)? Does it satisfy the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism, or whom? The question has never been answered. I am sick and tired of asking it. Will someone stand up in this House and say who wants metric in the retail food sector?

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, on the one hand, the hon. member has just accused the Canadian government of following the French government, the Japanese government or some other foreign power which wants us to go metric, but we are doing it on our own, we are Canadians. On the other hand, the hon. member wants us to wait until the Americans have caught up with us. We do not have to catch up with or follow any other country. We are on our own. We shall remain so with respect to metric as with other things.

In the House on April 23, 1981, the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism (Mr. Lapointe) noted that the president of the Canadian Federation of Retail Grocers and the president of the Canadian Organization of Small Business simply asked that, together with them, the minister look into the possibility of setting another time schedule for scales conversion.

The government has examined the implications of further delay not only upon the scales conversion program itself but also the adverse impact it would have upon the implementation of other sector conversion programs, which are well advanced.