

Motions

deal with it right now where it is than what the Hon. Member is suggesting, that it be done away with.

The Hon. Member brings an interesting point forward about the Port of Vancouver and that there should be local membership running it. The membership of the Port of Vancouver is made up of local residents.

Ms. Mitchell: Not municipal.

Mr. Belsher: The Hon. Member says that they are not municipal. We want to ensure that the person has been voted on to that board. The head of Ports Canada is from the north shore of Vancouver. He is a very respected member of the community and is very familiar with the operations of Transport Canada.

With respect to what the Hon. Member has raised today, yes, the standing committee is listening, and it is listening very carefully. It has also prompted various municipalities to come in to see it. It has invited them to appear before us whenever we have been told that there were concerns. When it comes to the relocation of railways and the fact that Bill C-105 will repeal the Railway Relocation and Crossing Act, the municipalities have suggested that Part I should be retained. I know that serious consideration will be given to that recommendation.

Mr. Benjamin: How serious?

Mr. Belsher: The Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) wants to know how serious is serious. At this point in time—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to interrupt the Hon. Member at this time. I wish that he would address his remarks to the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell). There is only a very short period of time left.

Mr. Belsher: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Vancouver East this. In light of the fact that municipalities have appeared before the standing committee and have put on the record recommendations, is that not sufficient to address the concerns that she now raises?

Ms. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised at how naive the Hon. Member is. There is quite a difference between hearing something at committee and having some government action to change a Bill. So of course it is not enough. We want to see the changes which the municipalities have been asking for.

I would like to comment quickly on the Hon. Member's point about the structure of the Port of Vancouver. He does not seem to realize that there are two structures, as I recall. There is the official board, which is an appointed board, usually made up of a fair degree of political patronage appointments, first by Liberals and now by Conservatives. There is also a place for an advisory committee. That is what I am referring to.

I think that there should be consultative advisory committees which are concerned with planning issues. We did a great deal of work on a master plan for the Port of Vancouver and it has been shelved. Nothing has been done about it. There should be people who have the appropriate connections with municipalities, as well as the expertise that is needed, to process this type of thing. The port should welcome that type of input.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) for making a wonderful speech on Bill C-105, which has nothing to do at all with the recommendations of the standing committee, and which in its own right is before committee. All these points are being covered exhaustively by witnesses and by the members of the standing committee. I thought about raising a point of order with respect to relevancy, but I realized that the fact that the Hon. Member was speaking on entirely different issues spoke to how well the Government has responded in positive terms to 10 of 13 recommendations with the other three still being examined on an ongoing basis. That has told me that the Government is responding very well indeed, something which is unparalleled in the history of this Parliament.

I can remember sitting for four years in opposition and having made some very sensible recommendations. Let us face it, we all come here elected by our constituents. We all believe that we have something to contribute to the national welfare of Canada. For years we could not get a Government to accept even the commas we might want to put into a sentence. But the Government under the leadership of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has accepted hundreds and hundreds of recommendations. We deserve credit.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I knew that the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) was well aware that Bill C-105 is in committee. However, she did get back to the various points in the debate today.

There are still a couple of minutes left in the time allotted for questions and comments.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member. I would like to ask if at the Vancouver airport she has run into any problems with respect to the airport restricted area access clearance program. Under the question of privacy the Hon. Member's Party has raised intrusions on the rights of existing employees to be examined by CSIS and to be asked certain questions. I would like to refer to a letter addressed to the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) from the Minister. It is in reference to his letter of December 2, 1987, which enclosed a number of petitions signed by individuals protesting the requirements of the airport restricted area access clearance program.