

and all that it embraced the House would then consider allotting him this money to set up the council.

Then, the matter seemed to be dropped until December 1 when the House gave the bill first reading. Since then it has been discussed on two or three occasions. In the interval since the introduction of the bill many industries, manufacturers and other people interested in it have raised many objections to this type of legislation. No later than today there arrived on my desk a copy of a letter from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. I think all members of this House respect very highly this organization. The chairman of the executive, Mr. Donald N. Byers, sent to me a copy of a letter which he wrote to the minister. In this letter he said some very important things:

Our Executive Council thinks that the Federal Government will merely create duplication of effort and spend unnecessarily, if it forms a new corporation. There is also the distinct possibility of creating confusion regarding standards to be observed by Canadian industry.

Why would any government want to introduce in this House legislation as confusing as this is, knowing full well that industry, represented by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, does not wish this legislation? The letter continues:

The danger of confusion for industry lies in the fact that the Standards Council will make use of existing organizations which will continue to maintain their own freedom in determining priorities and policies in writing standards; and yet in item 2 Clause E of the Bill, the proposed Standards Council will review new standards and revisions of existing standards and approve those standards as national standards where appropriate. Therefore, whose standards does industry follow—the Canadian Standards Association or the Standards Council of Canada?

Industry is confused, perplexed and frustrated. Why would we want to proceed with this type of legislation or even send it to the committee for further study?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, may I make a very simple observation? The Canadian Standards Council—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some doubt whether the minister can make an observation. He can ask a question at this time but no more.

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member aware of the fact that under the legislation now before the House the Canadian Standards Council will not be writing standards.

*Standards Council of Canada*

**Mr. Hales:** Will not be writing what?

**Mr. Pepin:** Standards.

**Mr. Hales:** Well then, I cannot understand why the executive council of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce would ask whether they are to follow the standards of the Canadian Standards Association or of the Standards Council of Canada. This is what the Chamber of Commerce asks.

**Mr. Pepin:** Neither can I.

**Mr. Hales:** This brings me to the second point involving why we need this Standards Council now in this period of government austerity. Why should we set up another bureaucracy or empire that will build and build, as has been the case in respect of the Department of Industry. Members of this House know all about that. Yet here we are embarking upon another program which I believe the minister said would cost in the neighbourhood of \$190,000 just to launch. We can be sure it will grow like Topsy and become another empire which is not needed at this time. I made it my business to ask a few people what they thought about this proposed legislation. I should like to read a few brief sentences from some of the letters I have received. The author of one letter apparently has been in discussion with some manufacturers in the province of Quebec. This letter raises a rather important point about which I had not thought. It reads:

In discussion of this point with representatives of the province of Quebec, they have indicated that while they are prepared to continue to co-operate with the Canadian Standards Association—

That is the present independent one.

—they would not be willing to continue this arrangement if many of the activities of the Canadian Standards Association were taken over by a Federally dominated Standards Council of Canada.

I had not thought about this, but apparently this gentleman has been advised that the Quebec manufacturers are not too happy about joining in this sort of an arrangement. Here is another letter, which reads:

We feel that a standards branch is indeed another Government control over our operation. A great percentage of our administration time is now spent for Government requirements which indeed have benefits for our country and its people but still affects overhead.

That is from a manufacturer of textile products in my area. The letter continues:

We are not convinced that Government intervention will raise production standards.