

International Peace and Security

Ms. Jewett: No, Mr. Speaker. I understood that we could each say a few words.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: There will be a debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The House has heard the suggestion of the Hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn). Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): As the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) just indicated, this Bill concerns some amendments which guarantee that the intent of Parliament is respected with regard to the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security.

Just to remind the House very briefly, the creation of this institute was a stellar, and an outstanding example of co-operation among all the Parties of the House, respected and supported by public opinion in the country, to establish in Canada along the lines of institutes established and operating effectively elsewhere in the world a Canadian institute for international peace and security. There was particular attention paid during the debate a year ago in June to ensure that the institute would have independence from Government and indeed independence from Parliament. The amendments today are designed to ensure that the intention of Parliament is in fact respected, because at about the same time that Parliament adopted this Bill establishing this institute, there were some amendments to the Financial Administration Act which inadvertently could compromise the independence that all Parties wanted to see attached to the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. Certainly a compromise of that independence is not a desire of the Government and, I feel confident, it is not the desire of any Party in this House.

So that the House may know the details of what is involved, there are portions of the Financial Administration Act which in effect require Crown corporations or agencies of the Government, including inadvertently this institute, to be subject to certain directions of the Government in Council. Under Section 96(1) of the Financial Administration Act, seven Crown corporations have been excluded from those provisions. Those organizations are the Bank of Canada, Canada Council, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Canadian Film Development Corporation, Canadian Wheat Board, International Development Research Centre and the National Arts Centre Corporation. In effect, what is proposed in these amendments today is that the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security be added to that list and be made the eighth Crown corporation exempt from that kind of control, which I think is desired by all Hon. Members of the House. I will be tabling in Parliament next week the first report of the institute. I do not want to anticipate its contents or take a great deal of time in the House now, but I think it is appropriate to take this occasion to make the point that it is never easy to build an institution which can earn the respect of a demanding community and, indeed, which can establish international

credentials and credibility. I think it is fair to say that the conduct of the board of the institute in its first year and the determination of all Members of the House to guarantee its independence mean that the institute is well along the road to achieving both the kind of influence and the kind of independence which all of us sought. Of course it is involved in the issuance of grants. So far, around \$250,000 have been issued by the institute in grants for research or public education activity. It is working extensively with voluntary organizations interested in issues of peace and security in the country. I am advised that every three months some 50 or more applications are received by the institute for support. In October of this year it will be organizing a major conference on challenges to deterrents. In addition to those formal activities, it is gradually and effectively establishing its own standing as a respected institute operating internationally. It has been in consultation with the well-known Stockholm International Peace Institute about the possibility of some joint projects. There have been conversations with representatives of the Peace Institute recently established by the Congress of the United States and with representatives of various eastern European countries.

In addition to the changes guaranteeing the independence of the institute, there are also some minor changes. One has to do with the adequacy of the French in the title and in the description of the institute.

[Translation]

This is a matter on which Alberta Francophones like me would rather not voice an immediate opinion. However, it seems that according to all the advice we had from experts in the field, it would be useful to change certain terms in the official title of the Institute.

[English]

In fact, the board has requested that the French title be changed to *L'Institut canadien pour la paix et la sécurité internationales*, which replaces the earlier phrasing *L'Institut canadien pour la paix et la sécurité mondiales*. There will be a consequent change to the Access to Information Act and to the Public Service Superannuation Act arising from the change of the name in French. There will also be, I should advise the House, a change in the arrangement regarding travel and living expenses for directors of the institute. Expenses need not be fixed by the Governor in Council but will instead be such reasonable travel and living expenses incurred by each director while absent from his or her ordinary place of residence in the performance of duties as fixed by the Board. Given the world-wide nature of an institute of this kind, that seems to me to be a sensible change which was requested by the Board and one with which the Government is in agreement.

● (1630)

Finally, I believe I am speaking on behalf of many and perhaps all Members of the House when I say that while we are determined that the institute itself be able to operate with absolute independence from the Government and indeed from Members of Parliament, it is dealing with issues which are at