

Standards Council of Canada

important debate to make that little journey, I wonder whether we could not postpone the Standing Order 26 debate until 4.30. This will give the House time to deal a little more fully with the bill now before us. I would also give the Senators time to finish the fisheries bill and allow for the House to go to the other place for Royal Assent. I suggest that rather than stop what we are doing at four o'clock, the debate on the Post Office be fixed for 4.30.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, could the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre tell me when he plans to take his trip, so that we would be able to plan accordingly?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The trip that I am talking about is a round trip—over to the Senate for Royal Assent, and back.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I must say that the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland) is being very smart in recommending greater stringency in order to obtain greater flexibility! I believe, however, that my arguments against the original proposal are equally applicable to the amended motion.

According to the original motion, there were to be ten representatives of the consumers, whose appointment would have been suggested or recommended by the Consumers Association of Canada. To that, I would have answered: Why not also have ten suggested by the Canadian Standards Association, ten recommended by labour unions and ten proposed by other groups. Then, I would be faced with the impossible task of reconciling all those recommendations.

The hon. member now amends his proposal to state that the recommendations would come from the consumers generally. I say that the previous argument is still relevant, because if we agree to appoint ten representatives of the consumers to the Council, will producers generally not be entitled to ask for ten also, as well as the distributors and the labour unions? And then it is easy to visualize the problems that would arise. In fact, who would speak of behalf of the consumers, the producers, the distributors and the labour unions?

I feel therefore that the motion, the first as well as the second, would give rise to insuperable difficulties in the setting up of such a Council.

• (4:00 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion? All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the said motion lost.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

Motion No. 1 (Mr. Rowland) negatived.

Hon. Jean Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved:

That Bill C-163, An Act to provide for the establishment of a Standards Council of Canada, be amended

(a) by striking out all that portion of clause 4 preceding paragraph (h) of subclause (2) thereof and substituting the following:

Objects

"4. (1) The objects of the Council are to foster and promote voluntary standardization in fields relating to the construction, manufacture, production, quality, performance and safety of buildings, structures, manufactured articles and products and other goods, including components thereof, not expressly provided for by law, as a means of advancing the national economy, benefiting the health, safety and welfare of the public, assisting and protecting consumers, facilitating domestic and international trade and furthering international cooperation in the field of standards.

Powers

(2) The Council, in carrying out its objects in the fields referred to in subsection (1), may

(a) promote cooperation among organizations concerned with voluntary standardization in Canada in those fields to coordinate standardization activities and develop common standards and codes;

(b) promote cooperation between organizations concerned with voluntary standardization in Canada in those fields and departments and agencies of government at all levels in Canada with a view to achieving compatibility and maximum common usage of standards and codes in those fields;

(c) recommend criteria and procedures relating to the preparation, approval acceptance and designation of voluntary standards in Canada in those fields;