

meet that 1980 target date. This man told me that possibly they could be ready by 1985 but it depends on what happens south of the border, for much of our lumber goes there. They buy it. If they are ready to accept metric measure by 1985, we will convert then. If they are not ready until 1990, we will wait until then. Therefore, not every industry of this country will convert readily to metric measurement, and for good reason. And we are annoyed that the federal government has not considered this.

That our changeover is confused is illustrated best by what happened in the changeover from Fahrenheit to Celsius. Before the changeover, the commission was in a panic. It held various meetings and decided, in the summer to publish a book for distribution to school-children in the fall. They would return to school in September, read the pamphlet on temperature conversion, and tell their parents about it. In the process it was hoped everyone would become familiar with the new temperature scale. There were numerous delays, and although the booklet was eventually finished, it was not ready for September distribution. The following January it was still sitting on the desk of the Metric Commission director.

Then someone looked at the calendar and said, "My God, we are supposed to be converted to Celsius by March and we have not distributed the booklet in January." There was great panic. There was an attempt to move the conversion date forward, but the government refused. Consequently great confusion reigned in the conversion from Fahrenheit to Celsius. Some still cannot use the new scale. Some radio stations report in Fahrenheit; others in Fahrenheit and Celsius. Although I have no trouble myself, I have met people who tell me they cannot relate to the new temperature scale, and are glad to have an old thermometer; otherwise they would not know the temperature.

The program of the Metric Commission has run into difficulty. It has spent almost \$20 million, and the result has been a great deal of confusion in the country. The government's position on the changeover from acres to hectares shows great rigidity on its part. It makes no economic sense. The changeover from acres to hectares will not produce one more bushel, or tonne, I should say, of wheat. It will bring no economic gain. That is not only our view; it is also the view of the American scientific committee. The letter the American scientific Committee sent us told us that people in Louisiana still use the old French land measuring system, and in California they still use the old Spanish measure. They do not think there is any economic advantage in converting to the English system of acres. The committee says it sees no economic advantage in the conversion from hectares to acres. I say it will bring only confusion.

The government and the Metric Commission are trying to tell us that the provinces will be responsible for the conversion; I suppose theoretically the provinces will convert, and people supporting metric conversion say everything will be rosy. Well, they are not right. Many municipalities have said they do not intend to change their street signs from miles an hour to kilometres an hour. The authorities in one of our large cities say this could be dangerous, because if people see that the speed limit is 50 kilometres they may think it is 50 miles an

hour. I point out that 35 kilometres an hour or even 30 kilometres an hour is not the same as 30 miles an hour. Think also of the confusion in our border towns, where tourists enter from the United States. There could be serious difficulties, and people not used to metric speed signs could easily become confused.

In addition, consider the cost of changing our signs. Municipalities will approach the provinces for the money and the provinces will say, "We have no money for this, it is the federal government's responsibility. We will take it up with the federal government." The provinces will find they cannot get anything out of the federal government for metric conversion. Therefore it will be the taxpayers of our towns and cities who will pay the costs of conversion. But many of our small communities will say, "We do not have the \$100,000 or the \$200,000 needed to change our signs, and we are not going to do it." The result will be nothing but confusion in the matter of metric conversion.

Hon. members have talked of the change metric conversion will impose on our culture. I suppose people will say that Peter Piper picked 8.87 grams of pickled peppers, but it does not sound the same, and it disturbs me.

Mr. Paproski: Say it really quickly.

Mr. Kempling: I can hardly say it as it is without faltering. We used to say, when quoting the "Charge of the Light Brigade", "Half a league, half a league, half a league onward, into the valley of death rode the 600". I suppose now we shall say, "1.5 kilometres, 1.5 kilometres, 1.5 kilometres onward, into the valley of death rode the 600."

Mr. Paproski: What do you think will happen to football fields?

Mr. Kempling: Incidentally, Mr. Jake Gaudaur, commissioner of the Canadian Football League, participated in our little luncheon group not long ago and assured us there will be great difficulty converting football fields. He said that despite anything the government says, it is intended to retain the present field size and markings.

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I have been rather harsh with the Metric Commission. In my view, they have not done the job they were given. The order in council is very precise as to what they are to do. Nearly \$20 million has been spent on metric conversion. However, when I talk to people in industry they say they do not hear anything about it. They are not getting the information. They say they will not absorb the cost of metric conversion, they will pass it on to the consumer. Eventually, the taxpayer has to pay for this. The taxpayer has already absorbed the \$20 million spent by the Metric Commission.

The Metric Commission periodically travels around the country holding meetings. They have said to those attending the meetings that industry will pay the cost because of the great benefits that will accrue to them down the road. That is one thing you do not do in business, accrue benefits over a long