

Currency Act

are damaged in the process of putting them in the change boxes. It is generally a very expensive proposition to keep our dollar bills in circulation. Due to the fact that you cannot buy much with a dollar bill they tend to circulate at a rapid pace which results in a very short lifespan.

As a result of adopting the dollar coin we must withdraw the \$1 bill. A few complaints have been voiced to my office from people who are of the opinion that it will be difficult to manage with the dollar coin as opposed to the bill. I disagree with that view. First, the Parliamentary Secretary has very appropriately indicated that the weight of the \$1 coin will be only slightly more than that of the present 25-cent piece and much less than two quarters. A person carrying seven or eight quarters in their pocket would find that those coins probably weigh three or four times what two \$1 coins would weigh. Therefore, those fears are unfounded.

The Canadian people will very rapidly get used to the \$1 coin. I am, however, a little concerned about the \$2 bill. I am not convinced that in the long term we will get maximum use of the dollar coin as long as we retain the \$2 bill. In my opinion we may want to withdraw that bill at some time in the future. However, this is a trial and error proposition and we will have to wait and see what effect the usage of the \$1 coin will have on the \$2 bill, particularly in eastern Canada.

I understand that there is almost a tradition in some parts of the country not to use the \$2 bill. I noticed that in my travels in the western part of our country. It does not seem as though some Canadians like the \$2 bill very much. On the other hand, in my riding they are used extensively. It is important to monitor that situation as it progresses. I am sure the Government intends to do so, but I thought I should bring it to the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary.

I would like to make one further suggestion to the Government. I have voiced this in the past. The reverse side of the \$1 bill carries a picture of Parliament Hill as viewed from across the river in Hull. In my opinion it is a very unique and beautiful scene portraying the logging days on the Ottawa river with a beautiful view of Parliament Hill and a small tugboat. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Hull—Aylmer (Mr. Isabelle), brought this to my attention because that is the view of Parliament Hill from his constituency. Perhaps we could use a similar picture on another piece of currency in the future. I bring that suggestion to the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary and hope that he will bring it to the attention of his colleagues on the Government side.

It has been suggested that the obverse side of the \$1 coin should carry an image of someone other than our present Queen. I do hope, and this is my own personal view, that the image of Her Majesty will remain on the obverse side of the dollar coin just as it is on the larger dollar coin currently in use. Perhaps the answer has been given in the past, it just escapes me at the moment, but I am wondering whether we will keep the existing dollar coin as well. Perhaps I could get an indication from that whether collectors will still want to

purchase the low circulation larger dollar coin we have at present.

• (1130)

Finally, I want to speak very briefly to the design of our new coin. It is commonly referred to as the Susan B. Anthony design, which is of course the U.S. dollar coin. It is identical in size and shape to our new dollar coin. However, I do believe the Americans made two mistakes in the design. First, it is not gold-coloured. Secondly, I think they made the very serious mistake of not withdrawing their one dollar bill which resulted in the American consumer making very little use of the dollar coin. Our coin as proposed is quite desirable, not only for the reasons which the Parliamentary Secretary has outlined, such as its light weight which will encourage Canadians to use it, and its low cost resulting from its smaller size. As well, the people in the vending machine business, the amusement business, and rapid transit services, and others who use coins in machines, will find that the machine mechanism can easily be replaced, because a large number of vending machines are made in the U.S. and of course the use of the Susan B. Anthony dollar has already been accommodated in a large number of vending machines. As well, a large number of replacement parts are available at low cost, so we have been told.

To summarize, we will shortly have a new dollar coin. I believe it is an excellent design and size. It has a good, highly visible colour. It will also have an important side-effect of benefit to the City of Sudbury and the mines in that area. I know that my friend from Nickel Belt will be speaking on this matter, but I would also like to point out the contribution of my colleague from Sudbury who came to committee on a number of occasions to assist me in this process. He has shown all along a great interest in Bill C-118 and in the report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates which recommended the new dollar coin. Again I want to thank him for the very worth-while assistance he gave me on this issue. I also want to thank all Members of the House for the excellent co-operation we all received in this project.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I suppose it is only appropriate that the Member for Nickel Belt would support the move to a dollar coin. The coin will be made from 100 per cent Canadian nickel, mined, refined and processed in Canada. That is extremely important so I know that I am rather partisan when it comes to moving to a dollar coin which is going to use products from the Nickel Belt. I make no apologies for that. Nickel mining is one of the few industries in my riding. Therefore I had an axe to grind when the committee held hearings on the dollar coin. However, I put aside my partisan feelings about the benefits of a dollar coin made from nickel. In a very impartial way I examined whether this country should have a dollar coin.

Mr. Bradley: Look me in the eye when you say that, John.