

Motions

as duties and tariffs on South Korean goods come up for decision making.

● (1130)

A statement made by the South Koreans is important to consider. They said: "Success all comes down to an image, a very good image". Of course they want to push a good image. That is important in the lobbying business because when one impresses legislators with what a good person one is or what a good organization one belongs to then one is more likely to have the ear of MPs when it is needed.

Former Members of the House who were concerned about lobbying had introduced Private Members' Bills concerning lobbying, starting with Mr. Barry Mather of the NDP who introduced a Bill to register lobbyists. The late Walter Baker introduced a Private Members' Bill on the same subject. That cudgel was picked up by James McGrath, the former Member for St. John's East. He introduced a Private Members' Bill, as did I. I introduced Bill C-269 which dealt with the whole question of lobbying.

Having studied the matter very thoroughly and closely, our committee made recommendations. The recommendations of the committee were made public about three weeks ago when we tabled our report in the House. We recommended the adoption and implementation of a system of registration of paid lobbyists. I point out that this was a unanimous report. Members of the committee who represent all Parties in the House agreed that lobbyists have to be registered. We also suggested that the lobbyists organize themselves into an association of lobbyists. We recommended that in addition to the system of registration. They should establish some code of ethical behaviour and police themselves. They should be responsible for their own actions, apart from the registration process that we have recommended. We have recommended that the registration process come under the direction of the Assistant Deputy Registrar General of Canada. We recommended that there be no fee to register a lobbyist and that information about a lobbyist ought to be obtainable on request from the Assistant Deputy Registrar General and that there be a fee to cover the cost of printing information, et cetera.

We believe it is important to know who the lobbyist is and for whom he is lobbying. We want to know the client of the lobbyist and the issue. In other words, we want to know who is doing what to whom. I also wanted to know for how much. But in light of the fact that this was a unanimous report I dropped my demand and went along with the other members of the committee for the sake of unity. After a period of two years we are prepared to review the legislation and see how it is working. At that time we might make a recommendation with respect to how much a lobbyist is being paid.

It was also important to know that we could cover the legal profession when members of that profession are acting as lobbyists for their clients. We have made a distinction between that function and the function of lawyers who appear before

quasi-judicial bodies such as the CTC or the CRTC in respect of some type of application.

I recommend to all Members that they read the report of the committee very carefully. I call upon the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) and upon the Prime Minister to bring before the House the legislation which was promised in September, 1985. I think Parliament is ready for it. The country is certainly ready for it. Not to bring it forward would be a dereliction of duty.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed the speech of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez). I must say—and I am sure he will take this in the right light—that his comments today were more temperate than some I have heard before.

I wish to comment on something the Hon. Member said in his opening remarks. He suggested that Mr. Moores and GCI were peddling influence. Perhaps it was just the Hon. Member's use of words, but I hope he understands that influence peddling is a criminal offence. I hope it was an inadvertent accusation on the part of the Hon. Member rather than a deliberate attempt to use the immunities of the Chamber to make that type of statement. The Hon. Member may have his views about the propriety of certain activities. However, I hope he shares my view that we ought to be cautious in terms of the language we use so that we do not make charges that we do not intend to make.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that I was more temperate. I would point out that that is because I am older today.

I did use the words "influence peddling". I can put it in the vernacular used by Mr. Moores' company when it appeared before our committee. The representative of the company who appeared before the committee said that the services of the company were "selective advocacy". I could substitute "influence peddling" for "selective advocacy", and I will put that phraseology in "selective advocacy".

● (1140)

It is also interesting to note that when that company came before us it pointed out very clearly that it has also hired Liberals. It hired not only prominent Conservatives, but it also hired prominent Liberals. One of the dangerous things about this is how it would appear to the public. One fellow who was there representing the company wore his MP's pin. It is obvious that that would give him access to this building, to Members in the House, and possibly to the bureaucracy. So it is impressions that we are dealing with. In fact, the Moores company was formed after the election of the Conservative Government. We also know that Mr. Frank Moores was a big backer of the Prime Minister in his leadership bid. We know that he received the appointment to the board of directors of Air Canada. We also discovered that he was acting as a lobbyist for other airline companies in their dealings with government agencies and quasi-judicial bodies.