

*Privilege—Mr. Domm*

That is, 60 per cent of the major companies in Canada are converting to metric. The truthful answer to that is that 60 per cent of the top 1,000 companies in the United States are not converting completely to metric. A report of February 6, 1981, said that American industry is not exactly rushing to convert to the metric system. In fact, only half of the industrial buyers surveyed reported any of their dollars going toward metrication. One respondent, according to an industrial publication, summed it up as follows:

There is no need for metrication for products made and sold in the United States. This is being shoved down the throats of most Americans.

Those are the facts in the United States. In addition to that, the metric commission in the United States has advised the U.S. Congress that it should not proceed with metric in the retail food sector for at least ten years and maybe never. That is the fact, not the propaganda being spread by the executive director of the Canadian Metric Commission.

On page 18 of this same report which I am tabling in the House, the Metric Commission says:

Perhaps a look at a Buick Skylark, and Oldsmobile Omega, a Chevrolet Citation or Chevette, and their owner manuals will help to convince you that there may be some value in boning up or catching up on metric units.

That is not true. That is misleading. I drive a Buick, a General Motors product. It is a 1980 model, and I can tell on the speedometer how many miles an hour I am going down the highway. I defy the Metric Commission to move into General Motors at Oshawa and tell them that they cannot put miles per hour on speedometers the way it will try to tell the retail merchants in Canada when this act comes into place. That is clearly misleading.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Domm:** In my performance as a Member of Parliament, I do not need to be told to bone up or catch up on metric implementation. I defy the executive director, Mr. Boire, of the Metric Commission, to take a trip to Peterborough and to ask the retail merchants there if they are overwhelmingly in support and ready to accept forced metric in the retail food stores. They are not. This document is a waste of taxpayers' money, as is the \$45 million which has been spent by the Metric Commission.

To give further examples of harassment by the executive director of the Metric Commission in this report behind closed doors I would like to refer this House to page 21 of this document. I have copies available for any hon. member in this House and I would be pleased to supply them. I said the following on the Jack Webster show:

—what Peterborough has done they have gone back to imperial 100 per cent.

What does the Metric Commission do with its \$250 a day lawyer who has studied this matter in great detail? He said:

MCC has been advised that there are still three stores in Peterborough which continue to sell by the kilogram.

The reason they sell in kilograms is that they cannot afford to buy imperial weigh scales because they were forced to buy metric weigh scales. They have to use them because they

cannot afford \$4,000 to buy imperial weigh scales. That is why they are still doing it.

**Madam Speaker:** Order. The hon. member realizes that he is debating now. He was doing very well in trying to convince me that he had a prima facie case when finally he identified the document and began to say what in the document constituted a breach of his privilege and in what way his reputation or his ability to function as a Member of Parliament had been affected by that document. If he could keep to that type of argument and not debate the fundamental question of metric conversion, which is a matter for debate in the House, and if he can continue to make that distinction, I will be able to listen to him, although I am inclined to look at his question of privilege in the light of the document. I have not seen it yet, but I will see it later on. Perhaps he could try to conclude. I think that would be helpful to the House.

**Mr. Domm:** Madam Speaker, I apologize for getting carried away in the heat of the moment. Going back to page 21, being very specific and reading word for word, the Metric Commission said:

MCC has been advised that there are still three stores in Peterborough which continue to sell by the kilogram.

My answer to that is that, to my knowledge, only one store in Peterborough continues to weigh in kilograms, but the fact is that not one store in the city of Peterborough displays signs in metric. There might be small print so that they can figure out the weigh scale, but in merchandising and on the signs on the wall they definitely use imperial measuring units.

On page 22 of this document of harassment, I said the following on the Jack Webster show:

More on the idea now of trying to develop some industrial strategy that will bring about some jobs.

The Metric Commission says this:

Metric conversion is an industrial strategy that is helping to create new jobs and to maintain those Canadians now have.

It has never created one productive job. It has never done one thing which could not be done in imperial weights and measures with less cost to government. My answer is that the Metric Commission of Canada has been at pains in other parts of this document to point out that theirs is only an advisory and a co-ordinating function which relies heavily on volunteers from industry. Nowhere does it say itself, nor is it said anywhere on its behalf, that it is involved in promulgating an industrial strategy. If the commission is in fact involved in such an operation, I suggest that a review of its mandate is in order. In addition, I defy the Metric Commission to produce a single job, apart from its own, which has been created as a result of metric conversion.

I hope Your Honour will refer this to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. I would like to read a letter Mr. Boire sent me as a Member of Parliament after I had sent him two letters asking for a copy of the videotape he purchased for some \$425 from the Jack Webster show. That show normally does not supply these tapes. I tried to get one and