

*Standards Council of Canada*

The Standards Council of Canada can also give assistance to such fine and able people as those associated with the CSA. This is my interpretation of the bill. That is why I am somewhat disturbed about the apparent impasse that seems to exist in the relations between the government and the CSA. I have heard that the initial meetings were most amicable. The objectives seem to be identical. However, for some reason this relationship has fallen apart. As I mentioned, I have immense respect for the people of CSA and the organization itself, as well as the work they have done. I also have immense respect for our Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The minister in charge of that department is highly regarded on both sides of this House and across the country. The officials of that department are examples of how a first rate government department can operate.

When I return to the business community, for visits only I am afraid, and I am able to talk to the businessmen about something other than the white paper on tax reform, it gives me a great degree of satisfaction to hear about their dealings with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It is virtually praise all the way. I do not hear the same praise for all government departments; some departments do have problems. The Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has a first rate record of working co-operatively with the business people.

As Canadians we must have high standards. We set high personal standards for ourselves, although we do not always live up to them. Sometimes we are pretty self-righteous. Consumers are demanding these standards. As far as my experience is concerned, the CSA never really got down to the consumer level, the housewife level. At a time when we are trying to develop even further as a trading nation, it is most important that people know that Canadian standards are good standards, ones on which they can depend. The Standards Council of Canada seal, if there is to be such a seal, must mean as much outside of Canada as the CSA seal of approval means within Canada. There are countries which have reputations for good standards and good products and other countries which do not.

I think that the Standards Council of Canada can help raise the standards. I do not think they can do this alone. They will require the help of the voluntary groups, the men of good will who know their business. This Council will assist private initiative in

this country; rather than opposing, it will assist, co-ordinate and initiate. The Council will offer leadership, guidance and the financing which is very important.

I listened with interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean) regarding the metric system. This is an ideal example of how standards can be used to great effect. It is a joy to deal with European businessmen. When sitting around a table of drawings and blueprints, although you are not able to converse in the same language, everything is much simpler because you are working in the metric system. Just moving decimal points around is really great. I think the metric system has many possibilities with respect to engineering, and the hon. member for Malpeque mentioned the construction industry.

The metric system is very useful in systems building. I had occasion a year or so ago to meet with some people from England who were engaged in the systems building business. They are now functioning in Canada in co-operation with a Canadian company. As a matter of interest, they got into this field by building the first Mulberry Harbours for the Normandy landing in World War II. Also, they built 70 per cent of the council housing in London. They have always used the metric system. To convert to the inch-pound system for the American and Canadian markets has been a horrendous experience. The metric system is much simpler.

If we really want to do something for our youth, why not adopt the simple metric system? Of course, we cannot switch over quickly. This is an immense task. Continuous studies of the metric system are being conducted by the Congress of the United States. Even the studies by the Ford Motor Company are immense. It may be an exaggeration, but it has been said that the time spent on a child's education could be cut by 40 per cent if he were taught the simple metric system. Trying to figure out pounds, shillings and pence as opposed to dollars and cents is perhaps the simplest example. It would also be interesting if we could work out the time and dates in the metric system. I thought of this not when thinking about the metric system but when thinking about how complicated our system of times and dates is. If we could only get in on to something like the metric system it would result in simplification, but this would involve altering the solar system and I