

Supply—Industry

to research in respect of farm machinery, I am quite prepared to accept his answer.

Mr. McCutcheon: Mr. Chairman, the last item at the bottom of page 236 refers to a grant to assist in establishing a national standards association. The expenditure in this item drops from \$150,000 to \$80,000. Perhaps the minister could explain the economy. The wording looks a little peculiar, if we spent \$150,000 a year ago and we now have a grant to assist in establishing it. How long will it be before it becomes established? Is this a continuing proposition? Is it established every year?

Mr. Pepin: I understand that it is now believed it can be operated for \$80,000 a year. As far as I am concerned, everything is ready for the introduction of this legislation in the house, as soon as we find time to do so. I refer to legislation to create a national standards association. To answer the hon. member for Perth, the reason—this is a bit tricky—is that \$48,000 was paid last year to the C.S.A. by way of a supplementary estimate. I do not know why a supplementary estimate was not included here.

Mr. Monteith: I do not know either. These are supposed to be revised estimates.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Chairman, as I understand the minister, he is asking us to provide \$80,000 toward setting up a national standards association for Canada.

Mr. Pepin: That is right.

Mr. Hales: Last year the department got \$150,000 toward setting up the same association. So there is \$230,000 that has already been spent in establishing a national standards association. The minister now tells us that the legislation is ready and he will introduce it into the house for us to pass. I believe this is the point we have reached.

Mr. Pepin: Yes.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Chairman, I shall move that vote 3 be stood, and that we do not grant the \$80,000 to set up a national standards association for Canada until the minister presents legislation to the house in order that we know what a national standards council involves, what its ramifications are, what it stands for and whether it will cover those matters in which we are interested. When we have the legislation we will know the answers to these questions. I do not think the house

should vote \$80,000 until we know what the minister has in mind. I do not know the procedure and whether I would have to write out my motion and give it to you now, Mr. Chairman, but I move:

That vote 3 of the revised estimates of the department of industry be not now passed until the minister presents legislation to this house, and it is passed, setting up a national standards association of Canada.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Chairman, I am very interested in keeping my reputation as a flexible man, a smiling man. So I accept the suggestion made by the hon. member for Wellington and suggest that we agree with the motion he made.

Mr. Hales: I thank the minister, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Is there agreement that this item stand?

Mr. Peters: No, Mr. Chairman. I am very much in favour of this item. I note that the department has already dropped the amount from \$150,000 last year to \$80,000 this year. I also support the idea of the hon. member for Wellington that we should have more detail in this regard. The hon. member for Trois-Rivières, I am sure, and myself would very much oppose dropping this item if it meant there would not be a continuation of the study respecting the metric system and the standards, weights and measurements used in Canada. On the other hand I agree with the hon. member for Wellington that we should have more details in this regard. I am sure that if the minister thinks about it for a minute or two he will be able to give us the reason for the department asking for this amount. For the minister to agree that we drop it, which I gather is what he is suggesting—

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Chairman, my mother was very right. She said to me one day, "If you try to please everybody, you will not please anybody."

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pepin: Let me try to make it clear. The \$150,000 for last year was not spent because legislation was not introduced in time. Plans did not materialize as rapidly as was hoped. The reason for the \$80,000 is the expectation that this would be for one part of next year. I presume it was expected that legislation would be passed about March or April,