

Regulatory Reform

Act rather than under the Act by which they are presently covered. I am thinking about bore hole logging devices used in the oil industry and new types of equipment coming on stream for *in situ* analysis in mines, a kind of instant assay equipment. That might be better dealt with under this legislation.

I just wanted to say that the regulations form an integral part of this Bill. Hopefully, they will be available for study in committee. I have looked at the search and seizure provisions of this Bill and they seem to be quite acceptable. The penalty clause of the present Act might be changed to bring it more into line with this inflationary period, as well as similar Acts of Parliament and statutes of provincial legislatures. In closing, I repeat that in principle we on this side are in favour of this Bill.

[Translation]

Mr. De Bané (for the Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved that Bill C-5, an Act to amend the Radiation Emitting Devices Act, be now read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

● (1600)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being four o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—
MOTIONS**

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall all orders and items preceding No. 105 stand by unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

REGULATORY REFORM

**SUGGESTED CONVENING OF
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL CONFERENCE**

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should, as soon as possible, convene a federal-provincial-territorial conference on regulatory reform to begin the process of simplifying and streamlining the regulatory burden on the Canadian economy.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this motion is self-explanatory. It calls upon the Government to convene a federal-provincial-territorial conference to deal with the scaling down of the regulatory burden in the country. I think that such an initiative would be timely and very important. We all recognize the fact that our economy is undergoing a very major adjustment in terms of our survival. The reality of the 1980s is that in order for us to survive in the international marketplace we must be competitive. That means that we must establish the kind of environment which would be conducive to allowing the competitive spirit of enterprise, efficiency and innovation to flourish.

I would like to detail what is happening in Canada to some extent *vis-à-vis* our trading partners and competing countries with respect to the total economic picture. I guess we are really talking about the global picture. The objective is to reduce costs and cut out inefficiency and waste. Over the last 30 years we have built up a very heavy bureaucratic and regulated structure. All statistical data and studies will clearly reveal that this is imposing enormous costs, not only on individual Canadians, but on industry and its ability to compete. There is no question that it is hampering our efforts to be competitive.

A recent study by the European Management Forum ranked Canada eleventh out of 22 countries in terms of our competitive ability. It is interesting that it is in precisely the same position in terms of the regulatory burden. That becomes a very important component in the over-all assessment of the criteria which are taken into consideration.

The European Management Forum is an independent non-profit foundation based in Switzerland. It has been preparing international competitiveness comparisons for five years. Some 284 factors are taken into consideration. I would like to quote briefly from the report. It says:

As far as the statistical side goes, it's not very surprising that Canada has lost ground, as many numbers have been depressed by what was the worst recession of any industrial country.

It then goes on to identify some of the components which are considered. For example, in industrial efficacy, that is productivity, labour costs and profitability, Canada ranked fifteenth out of the 22 countries which were surveyed. In outward orientation, that is foreign trade and investments and attitudes, Canada ranked fourteenth out of the 22 countries surveyed. In innovative forward orientation, that is R and D and adaptability to future requirements, Canada ranked fifteenth out of 22 countries. I believe that all of those components are relative and pertinent to our ability to compete more effectively and to be more flexible and innovative. We do not stack up very well in those areas. A lot of it stems back to the