

Government Orders

present program, which is acknowledged by all who are familiar with it, derives from the fact that it is an instrument of Canadian foreign policy and that it enjoys the full co-operation of the academics abroad who, in effect, deliver it. To transfer this responsibility to the Canada Council, which has no experience with Canadian foreign policy and no contact with academics involved in this program abroad, is bound to incur additional costs and produce a less effective program, and in the process to expose the government to serious criticism”.

I think those are valid views to which the government should pay attention.

Also, in a message from the chairman of the European Task Force on Canadian Studies, Cornelius Remie, states in his summing up letter to the Secretary of State for External Affairs:

We have acted in good faith, urged by the encouragement of your officials, who have shown a marked sensitivity to and respect for the dictates of the academic world. If the planned transfer of the delivery of Canadian studies programs from your department to the Canada Council does not build in sufficient guarantees for the continued support of these programs abroad, there will inevitably be a widespread sense of disappointment, even betrayal, that could well undermine the investments Canada has made in this field over many years. I do encourage you not to let these investments be wasted and the support upon which these rest be eroded.

It is clear the community that has worked in good faith for the last 14 years in building up Canadian studies, humanities studies, throughout the world and throughout Canada, is questioning why a bill such as this would be brought in with no consultation with those involved, after it was switched out and set up after substantial consultations back in 1970 and prior to 1978. Now, unilaterally, the government has decided as a cost cutting measure and a measure that it has admitted will not save that much money, to go ahead and say: “You are going to become part of the Canada Council”.

It is not hard to imagine that if we looked in the Auditor General’s report alone we could have found the money to have kept these two entities as separate entities. We could have found sufficient funds to continue to fund this particular group as a separate entity, and in fact increase its funding without hurting any other areas. We could have also continued to fund the Canada Council to the extent that it should be funded.

We only have to look to the section, for instance, on the tax havens, where the Auditor General says that there are hundreds of millions of dollars, admitted in questioning in committee, that it could be well over a billion dollars being wasted or lost in tax revenues each year as a result of the tax haven loopholes that this government has brought in.

That is one of the things that I looked for in Wednesday’s economic statement. I thought, well, if we have to find revenues, where will the minister look for them? He had to look no further than one week ahead of his economic statement in the Auditor General’s report of November 24, opening it up and looking in that section and seeing the Auditor General’s statement of “hundreds of millions of dollars of tax revenues are being lost to large multinational corporations and large corporations each year”.

Did I see that loophole closed in the economic statement? I looked and I looked some more. The Tories did not close the loophole because they have an election coming up. They depend on those large corporations to use some of the profits they are saving to help runs up to an election. It would be very simple to close those loopholes and try to ensure that things like the Canada Council and the Research and Social Sciences and Humanities Council are kept as separate entities. However, this government has a totally different direction. It is called help your big buddies and leave those who would not help you on their own.

• (1440)

Mr. Milliken: The Tory fat cats.

Mr. Whittaker: That is right. I think the member from Kingston has it exactly. Help the fat cats and we will stay fat on the fat of the land. The member from Kingston is very astute. The fat cats are sitting on the other side and they are making those poor people worry about what they are doing. They are ruining what has been developed over a 14-year period.

Let me turn just briefly to another section before my time is up. It is in respect to the emergency preparedness. Once again, if we look at the Auditor General’s report for 1989 and 1992 we will find that there is a fair amount of criticism, not for the people that work within Emergency Preparedness Canada itself, but of the bu-