

*Standards Council of Canada*

respect for the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan) and I am sure his actions are genuine.

I think perhaps we should ask ourselves this principal question: is the legislation really necessary? If we decide that it is, we should then make certain that we are bringing forward the best possible legislation and regulations to make this law work. The question is not really whether this legislation will be good in another six months or six years, but whether the legislation is needed and whether it is good legislation. I think it is. We can always find reasons for delay, and the matter of delay is one thing that disturbs me about this august place.

We are never really quite ready to move, because we have never quite tied up all the loose ends, crossed all the t's and dotted the i's. As a businessman who has been here almost two years, I have found this somewhat disturbing. I was always a little fussy about seeing that everything was in place before I moved, but here things do not work that way. Actually, I think if most businessmen are honest with themselves they will admit that they tolerate a very high degree of inefficiency in their own organizations and they do so for many reasons: first, because they are inefficient themselves, and second because businessmen deal with human beings. People come to Members of Parliament and say, "Get tough; fire these people and knock these people out." When the Prime Minister said that the Civil Service was to be cut back by 10 per cent, the Leader of the Opposition said that action was brutal. And it was brutal. It is not very nice for those who have to carry out this action. That is why we, in our private lives, do not do brutal things very readily but demand that governments and legislators carry out such actions. I do not say these things should not be done. We must be businesslike in our whole approach and thoroughly investigate these suggestions. However, it is much easier to sit back and tell people to do things than to do them yourself.

● (4:00 p.m.)

One minister indicated to me the personal anguish he suffered when it was necessary to make serious cuts in his department. He spoke of the personal hardship this caused. Many people applauded this action, but they did not have to undertake it. Even though everything is not perfect and some things may be criticized, we must still proceed. If the bill is as dangerous as some critics imply, I would be against it.

[Mr. Danson.]

We must be very careful to not have too much government intrusion into the private sector. I have spoken to many groups across the country on other matters of reform. I am concerned that the tentacles of government do not become too deeply imbedded in our society. Society and industry are changing and are becoming much more complex. It was great to do business in your home town and deal only with people within a short radius. I have been in business for 25 years and realize that businesses have now extended beyond local operations. I am not only talking of myself but other businessmen have seen their businesses spread across the country, into the United States and halfway around the world. The world is not the same; it is changing. We cannot satisfy ourselves with the techniques we have used previously.

I am very familiar with the CSA. I have immense respect for this organization which personifies all that is good in industries and business people working together. I have no time for those people who think that everything done in business is devious. Certainly, there is a dollar measuring stick, but there is also a humanity measuring stick. The same things which keep us from being efficient are the human things that make businessmen responsible and responsive to one another. Of course there are exceptions. There are exceptions in all cases. The CSA has somehow harnessed all the facets of the Canadian industry. There has been great personal sacrifice by the members of this organization who have worked in co-operation with the individuals and companies and contributed to the welfare of these companies.

I found, in working with the CSA, that it sometimes took a long time to develop standards. However, you do not go shooting from the hip because in many cases voluntary standards are being adopted. It is necessary that they be right. However, sometimes there is reason to keep up the pace. I can recall a series of meetings which went on for a number of years concerning the standards for plastic pipe. There was no other body to do this except the CSA. I have been associated with the plastics industry, which is a new industry, and until recently did not have any regulating bodies. It took a fair amount of time to get the CSA working on our problem. The plastics industry's working relationships are improving, but for a long time we were groping. Many new industries and situations are developing so rapidly there will be no time for the same kind of groping.