

Canada Business Corporations Act

extensively in the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. It was unfortunate that their other duties prevented those hon. members from being present because I think that had they been there most of the questions they have raised would have been answered. The point is that this bill which registers corporations is not intended to do everything. A corporation, like an individual, is subject to the law of the land, and the assumption is that a corporation will abide by laws of general application, for instance, in such matters as safety standards.

This bill enlarges the power of the dissenting shareholder who is thereby strengthened when expressing a concern about the public interest. The safeguards for fiduciary responsibility are also increased.

I should like to comment also on the questions which have been raised with regard to the French language translation. We must remember that although this bill has been on the order paper for only a couple of weeks now, it was also on the order paper in the spring, and it is the second time the Senate has examined it, held extensive hearings, and heard witnesses. So it is a bill which has had rather careful examination and broad exposure to the public because the draft bill was in the public domain—it was circulated to lawyers and accountants over a fair period.

● (1532)

The question of the French translation arose when the bill was before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs about three years ago. At that time some of the French-speaking members of the committee found fault with the quality of the French in that the translation seemed to them to be clumsy or less clear than it might be, particularly if it were going to be used by members of the Quebec Bar. So the commitment was given to the committee at the time that a new French version would be introduced. Again there was extensive consultation with members of the Quebec Bar, and our colleague, the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Marceau), who was the parliamentary secretary to the minister of justice three years ago when the bill in its first shape was before the House, worked with the legal draftsmen in the Department of Justice, with officials of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and with members of the Quebec Bar in order to get a version which was clear, accurate, and more acceptable to the practitioners in Quebec.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

[Miss Nicholson.]

[Translation]

THE LATE MRS. GOLDA MEIR

PARLIAMENTARY TRIBUTE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): I understand there is unanimous consent to allow one representative of each party to rise and express briefly his condolences on the death of Mrs. Golda Meir, former Prime Minister of Israel.

[English]

Mr. Paproski: Agreed.

Mr. Nystrom: Agreed.

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Golda Meir whose death occurred in Israel before the Sabbath last week. I had the honour to be part of the eight-member delegation of parliamentarians who represented our country in Israel at the funeral. The delegation was headed by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Danson) and by Senator Jean Marchand.

Golda Meir was, in her lifetime, the most remarkable woman in the world. She settled early in the land which was to be reborn as Israel. Because of her great strength as a human being, her personal values and standards will be a part of that state forever. Her commitment was to a free society, to democracy, to social justice, and to the search for peace.

In her great life she was a victim of discrimination, a refugee, a pioneer settler, a wife and mother, a woman who will always be a particular example to women, a union organizer, a politician, an ambassador to the Soviet Union, a minister and a prime minister who, suffering from the disease that was to ultimately take her life, led her country in war. Regrettably she did not live to see her country know the blessings of peace, but there will be a peace in Israel, a just peace, and when that peace arrives it will be a tribute to her memory.

Mr. Rob Parker (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) and, as he indicated, a number of other members in the House and one representative of the other place, I was honoured to attend the funeral of Mrs. Meir in Israel earlier this week. It seemed to me that in attending her funeral, in paying tribute to her, in taking notice of her death today in the House, we mark much more than the passing of a former head of government of the nation of Israel.

Born in the Ukraine, raised in the United States, she was a pioneer in the Zionist movement and in the Israeli organization of the kibbutzim, the collective farm villages that were and are central to the development of the modern state of Israel. She was a pioneer as a woman who combined a career of more than 50 dedicated years in public life with a deep and abiding love for her family. She was a person of caring and compassion, of heart and love for her fellow man, whose turn as leader of her nation was bloodied by a terrible war.