

be a co-signatory on every cheque issued by the company, and no cheque issued by or in the name of the company shall be valid without his signature. My understanding, from the minutes of the committee hearings and from what my colleagues who are members of the standing committee told me, is that there are now four possible signatories for the company and that any two of the four can sign cheques.

It is quite normal for any organization to set down that one of two signatories shall be such-and-such an officer. The secretary-treasurer of a company, a corporation, a union or any organization may be one of the signatories on cheques or any documents signed on behalf of the organization, and one, two or three others may be co-signatories. This is normal procedure. This amendment, in effect, states that the comptroller shall be one of the signatories on every cheque issued by the company. He will therefore be able, as cheques are required to pay wages or salaries, to buy anything or to rent an office, to see what the cheque is for and refuse to sign it if in his judgment it should not be done; and he may then bring it back to council. If he refuses to sign it, the cheque is not good. In that way the money would be controlled.

I urge my amendment upon the Secretary of State, the Minister without Portfolio and the other ministers who are present. I do not insist on the particular wording I have used, but I urge them to favourably consider my approach. If my amendment were adopted, the comptroller would have supervision over the expenditures and in an indirect way he could affect some of the projects or programs by saying, "In my view this cheque should not be signed by me." He may then go back to the council or to the executive director and argue with them about it.

My amendment does mean that the council members and the executive director would remain in their positions. The people who form the program, who make the agreements with the volunteers and who make the decisions in the first place would remain, and only when money had to be paid out by cheque would the comptroller come into the picture. It would also mean that once a cheque was issued to pay the expenses for a project, the project people would not have to come to Ottawa for every pop bottle they wanted to buy or every penny they wanted to spend.

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has

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expired. Is there unanimous agreement to allow the hon. member to complete his remarks?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**An hon. Member:** No.

**The Chairman:** There is no unanimous agreement.

**Mr. Stanbury:** Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. member a question?

**The Chairman:** Unfortunately, the hon. member's time has expired and there is no unanimous agreement to allow him to continue.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Chairman, there might be unanimous consent to allow the hon. member to give an expanded reply to the question.

**The Chairman:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Stanbury:** I think the hon. member's suggestions should be considered and I think he should have an opportunity to make them clear. Let us take, for instance, the example of Wards Island to which reference was made earlier today and last night. If the comptroller decided that he should not pay the salaries of those volunteers, and the council then instructed him that they should be paid, what would be the position of the comptroller and what, in the opinion of the hon. member, would be his responsibility?

**Mr. Lewis:** There are two things I might say in answer. This is not entirely fair, but I think my point will be clearer if I answer it in this way. First, the situation would be the same as it is under subclause 2 of the bill. That is to say, no payment of any money shall be made by the company and no contract or other arrangement providing for the payment of any money by the company shall be entered into unless approved by the comptroller, regardless of whether the council decides otherwise. The same applies to the amendment I propose, except that the comptroller does not come in at every stage of the contract or payment, as is here the case.

Wide discretion is given to the council and to the executive director, but when a situation such as the Wards Island case arises, I hope the comptroller will be the kind of person who will have the courage to say that it is a waste of money and a misuse of it, that he will not sign the cheque and that he wants