

Government Orders

The contract of services is altogether different. A contract of services is a contract for a specific person's abilities, knowledge, and expertise, and she or he has with the employer an employee-employer relationship. I have a long-standing concern that the Public Service of Canada has a contract of services with people for their knowledge, their expertise, and they are selected according to the best way that I know, that is, on the merit principle as to whether or not they can better accomplish the functions required of them.

The contract for services is a concept completely different from the contract of services. That is the gist of my amendment. I am trying to make it understood that if there are certain processes that have to be accepted before employment, then that goes for everybody. In my book you hire public servants on merit and you give contracts for services to people who can better do that but do not want to have an employee-employer relationship and therefore will give you the benefit of their knowledge.

• (1050)

That is essentially the gist of subclause 15(2). I am trying to make that understood. I am not trying to do anything other than make sure that the concept of contractual obligations works that way in the Public Service. It is fine to hire yourself out for work on an employee-employer relationship, but then you accept also that you have to go through a certain screening process including selections and competitions.

On the other hand, for a contract for services it is different. I think I have made my point, and I will rest my case on that.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Hawkes: Negatived on division.

Motion negatived.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (for President of the Privy Council) moved that the bill, as amended, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. de Cotret (for President of the Privy Council) moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce Bill C-34, establishing this Canadian Centre for Management Development, at third reading stage.

The creation of the centre was announced by the Prime Minister on April 14, 1988 as an institution dedicated to excellence in teaching and research into public sector management. More specifically, the centre's mission is to strengthen the management capacity of the public sector, particularly the senior levels, with a view to improving the quality of government and to enhancing service to the people of Canada.

I consider this bill to be of great importance in today's context where a competent, highly motivated Public Service is essential to cope adequately with the growing complexity of a world-wide competitive economy and of a fast changing society in a time of limited resources. The creation of the centre is also an important part of the revitalization of the Public Service which the Prime Minister announced recently and which is being pursued in the Public Service 2000 project.

Let me briefly summarize the chronology of events that led us to the third reading of Bill C-34. Its predecessor, Bill C-148, was tabled in Parliament on August 15, 1988. It received unanimous approval in the House of Commons and was under review by the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance when it died on the Order Paper at dissolution of Parliament in the fall of 1988.

The bill now before us, Bill C-34, was introduced in the House of Commons on June 27, 1989. This bill incorporates revisions made as a result of questions raised during the Senate review on the independence and accountability of the centre and its principal. More specifically, the status of the centre has been changed from a department under the direction of a minister to a departmental corporation in which the board of governors composed of chief executive officers from the private sector, senior members of the academic community, and deputy heads of federal government departments has the responsibility for the management and conduct of the affairs of the centre. The bill also designates the principal as the chief executive officer of