

attention of the people on such unfortunate cases that may happen whenever one has to report the battering of children in certain families, battering that may sometimes require emergency care.

While I must commend the sponsor of the bill for his good intentions, I have doubts about the practicality of such a measure. Indeed, if it were accepted and included in the Criminal Code it would be an exceptional provision by indicating that this is a crime completely apart from others and I submit that some provinces, as has been indicated, have proceeded in such cases under provincial legislation. However, such provincial legislation does not stress particularly the role of the doctor. It simply states that any person having information of the abandonment, desertion or physical ill-treatment of a child must report this fact. Then, if there is such an obligation for "any person" in any province, why should we place it chiefly upon the doctor in the Criminal Code?

And if in the past it has not been deemed necessary for individuals to report the commission of criminal offences by their neighbours or relatives, why should we use this principle in this case, namely in the case of doctors which come under provincial legislation and whose medical acts often have considerable legal consequences in civil law, and which can give rise to liability suits. Suppose that a doctor should report something which, in his mind, falls under the provision of this bill. If someone is indicted and later acquitted, this will inevitably give rise to a damage suit against the doctor who made the report. The doctor can only make such a report if the provincial laws concerning the practice of medicine cover such cases.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business has now expired.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT, OBJECTS, POWERS,
CAPITALIZATION, ETC.

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Benson that Bill C-219, to establish the Canada Development Corporation, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Saltzman (p. 3648).

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, before we rose for the dinner hour I said that the concept of the CDC is sound provided it does not compete with the people of Canada,

Canada Development Corporation

and it must not be used as a dumping ground for government failures. I also said that the many rules and requirements regarding full disclosure by other corporations must apply in their entirety to the CDC.

I realize that the idea of assessing in advance what a plan will cost is brand new to the government. The normal procedure seems to be for it to barrel ahead with some half thought-out scheme, ignoring the cost completely, secure in the knowledge that Mr. Taxpayer is always sitting there waiting to contribute his hard-earned dollars at the drop of a hat. I imagine that one or two people have begun to wonder when they will have to stop paying more and more all the time, but probably most people would prefer to swallow the Minister of Finance's bitter pills rather than the substance which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) advised the truck drivers to eat.

There was a beautiful instance of the attitude of the government toward costs not long ago at a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. The committee was discussing Bill S-2, respecting Statistics Canada. This was at least the second day of discussion and the plan was being examined in great detail. The hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Cafik) asked:

Has anyone any estimates on how much that kind of input work will cost? It seems to me to be pretty costly for the large number of taxpayers in Canada... Have you any estimates of cost there?

The reply from the Dominion Statistician, Mr. W. E. Duffett, was:

We have no estimates, but one would have to work the thing out in very considerable detail in order to determine what the cost would be.

Just look, Mr. Speaker, at what this sort of thing means. On the one side you have the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) doing a fine job of protecting the consumers' interests right down to quality, content, advertising and price fixing, and on the other side you have departments selling so-called services to the public but they will not even tell the public what the price is. This is my concern about the CDC. Aside from all the ballyhoo about shareholders' subscriptions, what will it cost the public of Canada now and later? If the government does not know how much is required and where it intends getting the money, this is gross incompetence and the government should get out of the CDC before it is even started.

If the government does know its cash requirements and proposed sources, and will not release this information, it is guilty of saying to the Canadian taxpayer, "What we do with your money is none of your business, and we'll make you pay anyway." I think that if we can get the CDC to disclose its plans to the Canadian taxpayer so that he can assess whether he wants to be saddled with it in the future, we will have made a great breakthrough so far as the government's attitude to the electorate is concerned.

I suppose it would be too much to hope that the Prime Minister would apply some of the maxims of the Minister