

the chairman of the committee, the Hon. Member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper), who did a very excellent piece of work in bringing about unanimity and consensus in the committee report on lobbying. I know it was not easy. Probably all members of the committee had to make some concessions in order to promote that kind of unanimity.

Having said that, I think it is time to recall the beginnings of this aspect of parliamentary reform, which actually began in the first Speech from the Throne. Our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), as his first order of business, enunciated the need for wide and sweeping changes to the practices within Parliament. He said there should be parliamentary reform and this is one of the reports which has issued from that particular statement of the Prime Minister. I, for one, want to put on the record that our Prime Minister has taken the initiative to begin changing the course of procedure in this Parliament to ensure that it becomes open to the people of Canada, so that all Members of Parliament, particularly the back-benchers, can do the work they were elected to do.

I listened with care to the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) when he spoke this morning. He made two points that were important to him and I think probably to all of us. His first point was that when the Prime Minister made the statement a year or two ago, what he did was ask a committee to do the work.

**Mr. Boudria:** No.

**Mr. Friesen:** With respect, the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) was not here and I am quoting the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap. He said this morning in debate that the Prime Minister had asked a committee to study the matter of the registry of lobbyists and now, 16 months later, we have the report. It was a complaint on the part of the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap that the Prime Minister did that. I would simply point out that if the Prime Minister had gone ahead on his own initiative and had the PMO do something and then referred it to the House, the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap would have complained that the Prime Minister had bypassed Parliament, and that would have been a legitimate complaint. The Hon. Member cannot have it both ways.

In making his second point, the Hon. Member read a list of lurid headlines from the newspapers and said it is time to clean up the act. I would not ask the Hon. Member, as a member of the Opposition, not to criticize the Government. That is his role and that is what provides for good government. However, if the Hon. Member wants the atmosphere of the House to improve, the first thing he can do as House leader of one of the opposition Parties, is give credit where credit is due; for once give total credit to the Prime Minister for having initiated the kinds of reforms which make it possible for the House to do its work.

I was glad the Minister in charge of this legislation was here this morning because he has given his undertaking that there will be legislation as soon as possible to bring about a registry

of lobbyists, which is long overdue. Having read the report, I would simply say that while I concur with pretty well everything in it, I myself think it has not really gone far enough.

The first assumption the report makes is that lobbyists, the ones who need to be watched most carefully, are those who are lobbying for some kind of financial or commercial venture. It assumes that most of the lobbying has a financial profit motive involved. To some degree, that is true. I do not think anyone would disagree with that, and it is probably of paramount importance that those lobbyists who are lobbying on behalf of commercial interests be the first to register. I think no one would deny that. However, it is an inadequate assumption that all of the lobbying of consequence has financial motive. There are other motives across the land today which encourage the lobbying of Members of Parliament. Some of these motives are ideological and do not involve money at all.

• (1550)

The report of the committee calls for the registry of those lobbyists who are paid lobbyists. I think all of us understand and accept that. The report goes on to state that there are other groups, single-interest groups, which should be required to register when they retain a paid lobbyist to represent their views to the Government. Those are really the only absolute restrictions the report would place upon lobbyists. To me, that is somewhat restricted. The net is too small in that area because, as I have said, there are groups lobbying members of the Government and members of the Opposition whose motive is not financial gain but ideological. That is fair and right. It is probably the way it should be. However, under the recommendation put forward by the committee they would go unnoticed. It is time to take a look at some of these groups and the lobbying efforts which they carry on.

For example, let us consider a group whose *raison d'être* is to lobby. That is its full-time operation. It may not send representatives to Ottawa, but it goes about changing public opinion. For better or worse, let us consider the animal rights groups or groups which lobby on the issue of acid rain. The people in these groups have as their *raison d'être* the changing of public opinion. In effect, they lobby the Government for a change in policy or administration. Is it not time that groups such as this whose *raison d'être* is to lobby be called upon to register all of their operations?

I am reminded of a group such as the Fraser Valley Peace Movement. I hear reports about this group once in a while, and I do not know if they are true, that some of the group's funding comes from the World Peace Council. I do not know whether that is true, but if it is going to lobby me as a Member of Parliament, or if it is going to lobby members of the Opposition, perhaps it is time for it to declare from where its financial resources come and if, in fact, it does receive money from the World Peace Council. If it receives money from the World Peace Council perhaps it is time for the rest of us to know about it so that we know from where the influence is coming.