

Corporate and Consumer Affairs

a fee payable on the incorporation of a dominion company a charge for services. It is a direct tax payable to the government.

Mr. Turner: For services rendered.

Mr. Woolliams: It is a pretty expensive certificate.

Mr. Turner: Do you want the department to pay for itself?

Mr. Nielsen: The provinces, the territories and the federal government charge this kind of fee and it is a direct tax. The minister tries to leave the impression that there is only going to be a net cost to the taxpayer of \$2 million, but that is not the case at all. The cost to the taxpayer is represented by all of the money that he has already paid as a result of direct taxation or indirect taxation, whatever the minister wants to call it, plus any additional costs which are going to accrue as a result of the expanded operations of the department.

As reported on the same page the minister went on to say:

I do not expect any appreciable increase in our net expenditures as a result of this legislation, if it is to be adopted by parliament.

The minister gives the house no indication whatever what he anticipates will be the cost of the operation of the advisory council. In fact, clause 7 not only refers to the creation of an advisory council but includes that great omnibus expression "and other bodies".

What are the government's intentions in this connection? How much is this new department going to cost the taxpayer? Whatever it is, it is going to be an additional cost, and that additional cost will be paid by the taxpayer. If the minister can convince anybody in this house, even those on the other side, that food prices, for example, are going to be lowered by reason of the fact that the taxpayer will be putting more money into the coffers of the government, then I would be very grateful to him. As I say, this legislation is another example of nothing more nor less than Simon Pure window dressing. The minister was in difficulty and he had to speak for an hour and a half to try to create the impression that something useful is being done here. However, it was an empty attempt, just as the attempted war on poverty has been a futile exercise in government expenditure.

An hon. Member: That is what you say.

Mr. Nielsen: I did not hear the hon. member. If he wishes to make an interjection let him stand up and do so.

Another example of useless and wasteful expenditure that has produced no result is the Company of Young Canadians. Medicare is yet another example of this window dressing syndrome of the government. We were asked to sign a blank cheque for medicare postdated two years, and what are we getting? The minister will doubtless recall that amendment after amendment was introduced by members on this side of the house, most of which were completely rejected by the government. So the answer put forward by hon. members opposite that we voted for the pension plan and that we voted for medicare does not hold water because the government was faced with constructive suggestions by way of amendment and discarded them like so much chaff.

Mr. Basford: You voted for it on third reading.

Mr. Nielsen: Yes, and let me say right now that we will vote for this bill. But we are going to put forward suggestions and criticisms. We are going to make those criticisms because the government has flown in the face of the recommendations of the Economic Council. The taxpayers of this country have paid several thousand dollars to provide the government with advice that has been rejected.

Mr. Basford: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Régimbal: Make your own speech afterwards.

Mr. Basford: The hon. member has criticized members on this side for not following the recommendations of the Economic Council. He has also criticized as being expensive the creation of a consumer advisory council. Is he not aware that this was recommended by the Economic Council?

Mr. Nielsen: I know the hon. member was here during the resolution stage at the time I read into the record the recommendations of the Economic Council. However, I forgot to read one that I intend to read today before I am through.

The Economic Council resisted the creation of a new department. The minister shakes his head, Mr. Speaker, so I suppose that this is a good time to put it on the record. If the minister says that what I say is not true, then