

*Standards Council of Canada*

of time. I should like the minister to give us an indication of this. He should prepare a lengthy proposal or document. Perhaps he should take this bill back for a few months and prepare that sort of thing in order to convince other people in Canada of the need for this organization.

I have the impression, as a result of the mail reaching my desk, which is not as extensive as the mail reaching the desk of the minister, that the people do not know what this is all about. I should like to ask the minister to give us an indication of the depth of the studies that have been made with regard to the implications of this kind of move.

The minister talks about consultation and his proposals to the standards associations. There are a lot of people who sit back in their offices with a pen—those great experts who draft legislation—who somehow or other do not have the required knowledge at their fingertips. They do not understand all of the implications of these things. Frequently, legislation which reaches the House does not seem to reflect the total situation. As a matter of fact, it is almost impossible for it to reflect the total situation.

I am sure the provinces would be very interested in having this information. I should like to ask the minister to indicate what types of studies have been made and what type of promotional role has been played in the international sphere. What type of technical assistance, in addition to what we have, does the government intend to give to assist existing organizations? What is the long term role of existing organizations and associations, and what is their future? Can they start planning to continue their role with enthusiasm and vigour? These are the kinds of questions we would like the minister to answer.

I am sure my colleagues, and all hon. members of the House, feel that the government has not given this matter enough consideration. I suggest, therefore, there is a great deal of concern in the minds of those who have taken the time to read this bill as to the cost of this measure to the taxpayers of Canada and the relative benefits to be derived. Again, on the basis of the reaction of the provinces and the lack of information regarding the studies which have been made, which are not as extensive as they might have been, we wonder about the underlying philosophy and attitude the government has taken toward this measure. We accept this bill as the beginning of a journey toward the establishment of

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

some kind of council which might be modified to suit the needs and interests of Canada. With this in mind I should like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Downey):

That the word "now" be deleted and the words "this day six months hence" be added.

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I have changed my mind about this bill several times this afternoon. I read it and thought I agreed with it. I have been informed by many of my constituents that there are many desirable aspects to the establishment of standards in many fields. I was surprised to hear the minister suggest he was going to keep repeating the words "foster" and "promote" and "voluntary action" because he felt we did not understand them. As a consumer, I do not want voluntary action. I want a standard I can trust. I should think such a standard should be adopted in respect of various things. This information should be attached to the items I buy. I do not want voluntary action. I do not have much faith or trust, and I do not want to foster or promote this lack of trust in respect of guarantees.

After reading this bill, I felt there was an indication it would mean something. It is very interesting to note that this organization will eventually supersede the Canadian Standards Association. In a letter which that Association circulated to all Members of Parliament—several of my colleagues received it so I assume it was received by all members—they said that if the bill is enacted, it appears that a federal government corporation will be given the power to supersede the Canadian Standards Association as the national agency for voluntary standardization in Canada. This letter is dated March 10 and the bill is dated December 1. Several newspaper items on the subject are dated early in January, so the conclusion of The Canadian Standards Association is that they will be superseded.

• (4:20 p.m.)

I should like to know from the minister whether or not what this organization says is true, because if it is true then I am very much in favour of the bill. However, if it is not true, then I would be prepared to support a six months hoist. So, I hope the minister will decide whether or not the conclusion of the Association is valid because there is a need for such an organization in Canada. I was interested to note that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) is aware of the fact that he has oodles