

*Government Orders*

not be able to protect an existing application. Some technical amendments are therefore necessary. One can easily imagine the problems and inequities this can create, so these are the kinds of amendments being proposed in Bill S-17. Of course, filing of patent applications will be simplified.

With regard to the Trade-marks Act, since 1954 there have been no technical or administrative changes in this legislation. We know that today, for instance, it contains no definition of an entity, but it does contain a definition of a group. Once again, these matters are dealt with in the bill.

Bill S-17 also provides for improving the operation and administration of the Copyright Office. Canadians will have better services.

Earlier we referred to the Industrial Design Act. It is important to protect our industrial designers. As you know, Mr. Speaker, although the Industrial Design Act has been in existence for almost a century, there have been no significant amendments to improve the legislation in many years, so this is important. I may add that all the amendments mentioned were suggested and approved by people in this sector.

At this point I would like to congratulate the Intellectual Property Advisory Committee, which was created in 1988, on its excellent work. Committee members represented business, cultural groups, consumers, universities, researchers and experts.

**An hon. member:** Lawyers.

**Mr. Vincent:** My honourable friend mentioned lawyers, but I wanted to use the word "experts". In any case, we understand each other. It boils down to the same thing.

These are people who worked very hard to make changes and provide positive and badly needed solutions for the intellectual property sector which was covered by five different acts.

Finally, this legislation, which is intended to improve the administration of five acts, will simplify procedures. It will simplify the technical aspects and introduce advanced technology, while giving Canadians more convenient access to the intellectual property sector.

The Senate has already examined the bill and judged it to be a valid piece of legislation.

• (1640)

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the House will adopt this legislation as soon as possible. If they are prepared to adopt all stages of the bill today, I am available. I would be delighted to be here in the House to support the bill and ensure it is adopted without further delay.

[English]

**Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon. minister on his ascension into glory with his new position in the cabinet. I have had the pleasure of working with him in the House since I was elected and so far he has been a refreshing change from the way that some things work around here. We have already had a few meetings and they have been somewhat productive. I think this is the first bill that the minister has introduced in the House, and so it is a milestone for him. It is generally a good bill to be introducing.

I say that because of the process that resulted in this particular piece of legislation coming before this place. For those who are watching, it happened in kind of a strange way. Bill S-17 was not initiated in this place but in the Senate, or the other place as we call it from time to time. It was introduced in the Senate of Canada. This is the reversible pipeline of legislation which we do not see a lot of in Canada. Indeed, it was debated, there was some committee study, and witnesses were heard.

It comes to us now after having had a fairly significant degree of examination and after some witnesses have come forward. It is sort of a hodgepodge and does a whole lot of things. There are five acts dealing with intellectual property which it proposes to amend. This bill came up through an advisory committee of stakeholders in the industry which had been set up. It went through a lot of the issues of the day dealing with intellectual property in Canada and the things it could agree on it did. It came forward with a series of amendments to five acts.

The five acts are the Copyright Act, the Industrial Design Act, the Integrated Circuit Topography Act, the Patent Act and the Trade-marks Act. Many parts of this bill deal primarily with housekeeping and try to harmonize regulations and correct some deficiencies and prob-