

*Supply—Industry*

Following the establishment of this standards council, will one of its jobs be the creation of a system to maintain equity on the international trading scene? Will a system be established to give an indication that Canada will be in a position to develop standards compatible with those in existence in the rest of the world? It has been my contention for some time, and obviously by the number of similar bills on the order paper the contention of a number of other members, that the Canadian system should be changed in all forms to a decimal system. While some countries do not use the decimal system as far as currency is concerned, most of these countries use this system in terms of weight. This creates some difficulty in international trade. Because of the monetary structure throughout the world, we now find ourselves in a position of advantage in relation to countries using the metric system. This causes a great deal of confusion. I have in mind the standards of the western hemisphere in respect of automobiles made here and automobiles imported from France, England and many continental areas including, Italy, Germany, and other countries.

If we intend to establish a standards council the minister should outline the government's function in this regard. I am sure there is going to be some disruption, no matter when we decide to change over, but it is probably easier to adopt a total and complete decimal system when several countries are experiencing serious monetary difficulties, than at any other time. If we are to set up a standards council which will interest itself in trade, and the development of our industries, some consideration should be given to the standardization of a system of measures. Canada should then convert to a specific system, rather than waiting until a system is developed which will be more to our advantage.

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Chairman, I feel that the hon. member for Timiskaming and the hon. member for Trois-Rivières have the same preoccupation. The hon. member for Trois-Rivières has written to me on a number of occasions regarding this specific matter. When this matter comes back before the house I will explain the relationship between the proposed council and the metric system. One of the functions of that council, I am sure, at least I hope, will be to study and propose methods of implementing this system in Canada. My hon. friend is aware that we are a neighbour to the United States, and even if

a large percentage of world trade was carried out in the metric system, the United States is an important customer of ours, and that country has not changed its system as yet.

I am sorry that I may have misinformed the hon. member for Wellington. The amount of \$50,000 is an annual grant to the National Standards Association. Perhaps I should have checked first, but I am now informed that the \$80,000 grant to the national standards council is for that council when it comes into being. I am sorry to have given the wrong information.

**Mr. Gilbert:** I should like to direct the minister's attention to the grants to the manufacturers in Canada who apply for government insured loans under the agricultural adjustments assistance program in relation to the Kennedy round agreements. I note the amount is \$650,000. I do not expect the minister to have details tonight, but I should like to know some of the facts in relation to the larger grants to particular companies. I have in mind government grants to these companies during the transitional period resulting from these Kennedy round agreements. They apparently continue to have a chamber of commerce application to the disadvantage of the employees who work for the companies. I should like to know the results of a study made in respect of these grants to manufacturers during the transitional period. Perhaps the minister can give us some indication of the amount of money these companies receive as a result of these agreements.

I was under the impression that the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance when introducing these estimates said that these grants had not been taken up by the manufacturers. I must have been wrong. I would appreciate it if the minister, if not tonight, would inform me as to some of these major grants. Perhaps he could do so by writing me a letter.

**Mr. Skoberg:** Mr. Chairman, under item No. 3, grants to industrial research organizations, the minister referred to agricultural machinery. If that is not so I apologize, and suggest I misunderstood because of my inability to understand French.

**Mr. Pepin:** In my opening remarks I was referring to automotive machinery.

**Mr. Skoberg:** I understood the minister also referred to other machinery, particularly agricultural machinery.