

series of organizations and individuals, and that there was dialogue with all kinds of different people concerned about this Bill. These are words I heard from Liberal Governments year in and year out: dialogue, correspondence, communication and so on.

Is it or is it not the case that there was an advisory committee and that the advisory committee consisted of the Business Council on National Issues, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Grocery Products Manufacturers of Canada and the Canadian Bar Association? The Parliamentary Secretary nods.

I have been around the workings of Parliament and Government long enough to know that when there is an advisory council, that council usually has an awful lot of influence. Often when you consult other groups that are not on the advisory council, it is window dressing, it is lip service.

I could probably go through *Hansard* and dig out speeches which the Hon. Member for Peterborough made when he was on this side of the House in which he said similar kinds of things. The Liberal Parliamentary Secretary would get up and say "Well, we consulted the farmers or the NFU. We consulted the steelworkers of America" and so on. The important thing is who is appointed to the advisory council.

Four business groups and one group of lawyers who represent the business groups were appointed. We have business groups and their lawyers advising the Minister on this issue. That is the point I made. I do not see that as having real input from various groups. Sure you can get a letter from the Consumers' Association of Canada. You can call up that Association and ask for advice. You can dialogue a little bit if you want with the President of the National Farmers Union or someone else. Why not put representatives of the farming community on the advisory committee? Why not put representatives of the labour movement on the advisory committee? Why not put some consumer representatives on the advisory committee? Why not put someone from the Status of Women or the Action Committee on the Status of Women on the advisory committee?

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, if you want to have a truly representative piece of legislation, that is where you put them. These advisory committees have a lot of influence. They are the ones who tend to have more expertise, who tend to dialogue with experts in the area and who tend to have the ear of the Minister. Maybe this Parliamentary Secretary did an awful lot of consulting on his own. I do not try to pretend that he did not, but it is a lot easier to be consulted in a genuine way if you are a member of the advisory committee. Perhaps I could ask why this was not done.

Mr. Domm: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would be an ideal situation if we took the 2,850 associations and organizations across Canada and had formed an advisory committee.

Mr. Nystrom: Now you are being silly.

Competition Tribunal Act

Mr. Domm: We cannot have all of them on the committee. I was glad to hear the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) agree that we should have had organizations like the Canadian Labour Congress because he has members from that group in his riding. I can report to him that we did. We had correspondence with the Canadian Labour Congress. We asked to meet.

Mr. Nystrom: A letter?

Mr. Domm: They wrote us a letter and told us what they would like. The net result is that our people from the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs met them. They did not come to meet the Department's people. As a result of that meeting, they asked us to give serious consideration to the tribunal as a method of judging the dominant position in the market-place. We did, and I am sure they appreciate it. I want the Member to know that we did consult with the Canadian Labour Congress.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, today I also have a few comments to make on Bill C-91, and I may say that the Liberal Party of Canada feels that sound competition legislation is necessary to ensure genuine competition on the Canadian market. However, in the course of this debate, we would like to contribute some ideas and solutions, to give this legislation teeth so that it can truly deal with the intolerable situations that develop every day in this country.

Yesterday, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Domm) said that the Bill would be a great help to Canadian small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to read a long letter from one of my constituents in the riding of Saint-Léonard—Anjou, a small businessman who, after many years of research and hard work, managed to invent a new process. He converts cars and trucks from gasoline to natural gas. This gentleman got in touch with Gaz Métropolitain Inc. Mr. Speaker, I shall quote directly from a letter of which I sent copies to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Ms. Carney), the Minister of State for Small Businesses (Mr. Bissonnette) and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Côté).

I hereby wish to inform you of the problems and difficulties I have been having with, both personally and as a business, in addition to the machinations of G.N.C. Quebec,

—a branch of Gaz Métropolitain—

—Conversion Division, and especially Réal Lefebvre and Sylvain Denis. I urge you to take action as soon as possible, if possible before Christmas. I want to be quite clear about the following items—

The letter is addressed to Mr. Martin, President of the company. Item one

1. Stop raiding my workshop for customers and trying to convince them that G.N.C. does a better job.