

*Standards Council of Canada*

Standards Association's services. It is exactly what we are trying to do in the bill I have the honour of presenting now.

Mr. Speaker, no doubt some people in the Canadian Standards Association have made great efforts to create concern or fear about the proposed Standards Council of Canada, despite the bill and the minister's endeavours to reassure them.

The Canadian Standards Association sent SOS messages to several groups of individuals, companies or associations in Canada and, at its request, people wrote us. In most cases, I simply replied by sending them a copy of *Hansard* for March 12, in which are recorded the speech by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate and mine.

Quite often, and particularly on this matter, the correspondence of the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Hales) might not be up to date. Representatives from some associations showed fear following the intervention of the CSA, but others wrote back to tell us that they were quite satisfied with the replies obtained.

I have before me quite a number of such letters. I cannot read them all, but some of them may serve as illustrations.

*[English]*

This is a letter from the Canadian Gas Association of Canada which, as you know, is an important standards-making association. It reads:

After reviewing your statements, it is difficult to understand why we have been literally bombarded with statements and briefs requesting our support in bringing about the delay or dissolution of Bill C-163.

It continues:

Since this step would probably have to be taken ultimately to ensure uniformity of standards-writing in Canada for the benefit of industry and consumer alike, you and your staff are to be commended for your foresight in vigorously pursuing this change and for giving the Standards Council of Canada an opportunity to become organized into a smooth-flowing agency in the event Canada becomes involved in long-range and complicated measurement conversions.

I could read the whole letter. There are two more pages, and it becomes more and more eloquent as it goes along.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** So do you.

**Mr. Pepin:** So do I? I have quite a few more letters. Perhaps the hon. member for Winnipeg something, who is a favourite of

[Mr. Pepin.]

the weaker sex, would like to know what the National Council of Women of Canada has to say.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker; I did not say they were weaker.

**Mr. Pepin:** I don't think so either. This is a letter from the National Council of Women of Canada. The letter reads:

We wish to assure you of our support when you introduce Bill C-163 and of our interest as we follow the readings through to Royal Assent.

They got the message. I cannot say so much for some members on the other side of the House.

**Mr. McGrath:** I hope the minister is more conciliatory when he sells wheat.

**Mr. Pepin:** The Canadian Wheat Board does that. Here is another letter from the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating. This was written to one of my officials, and it reads:

Please assure Mr. Pepin that this Institute is most anxious to co-operate wherever public interest is concerned. Many of our people are well versed in the subject of standards and we would be pleased to assist the council in determining the need for and the definition of individual standards.

I could give you copies of these letters. They are most eloquent. I am the first to recognize that we also have opposition. Some people have been more influenced by the SOS's, they received from the Canadian Standards Association than by reading the bill. In some instances, I wonder if they have read the bill or read it well. However, most of those who had doubts and who have received the information we provided have been reassured.

A number of specific questions have been asked today which I shall try to answer very rapidly. One has to do with the powers of the proposed Standards Council of Canada. May I repeat and emphasize that the Standards Council will foster, promote and co-ordinate. It will not usurp—which was the word used by my friend from Gander-Twillingate—take over or supersede. The Standards Council of Canada will not duplicate the activities of existing organizations. It will not write standards of its own. But I believe it is fair and desirable in the public interest that the Standards Council of Canada have the power to act if this should be necessary. If there should be a recognized need for standards in some areas, and if none of the existing stan-