

attentively to what I am going to say because the *Calgary Herald* is published in his riding and *Maclean's* is not. The editorial is entitled "Lobbyist bill overdue". It reads:

Almost three years since he promised legislation, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's new law to register paid lobbyists has gone only as far as first reading and committee hearings.

Well, it had actually gone to second reading. It continues:

It has taken entirely too long for this piece of public interest legislation to become law in Canada.

Since the Tories have asserted, as Mulroney did in 1985, that Canada needs a law requiring the registration of all those who lobby for a living on Parliament Hill, then they should get on with the job of enacting such a law.

The United States has had such legislation since 1946 but Canada's long delayed and slightly bedraggled Bill C-82 had to wait until this month to make it as far as a Commons committee hearing.

It was ushered by an apologetic Consumer Affairs Minister Harvie Andre who argued that the bill ought not to require that lobbyists divulge how much they are paid for their endeavors on behalf of a plethora of interest groups which routinely seek favors from the government.

In short, the bill will ask lobbyists employed by companies or groups to register only such data as their names, addresses and telephone numbers.

Those are the Tier II lobbyists to which I was referring. It goes on to indicate:

A second category or so-called hired gun lobbyists will also have to report, in advance, the issues they have been hired to discuss with government officials.

But that's the extent of government's attempts to provide for public awareness of the activities of influential but little known lobbyists in Ottawa.

No wonder Bill C-82 is also known as the business card bill. It is almost too weak to bother with, but it is, just barely, better than nothing.

That report is from the *Calgary Herald*. I know the Minister knows the *Calgary Herald* very well.

● (1550)

I believe I have grabbed the attention of certain Conservative Members. I apologize if I spoke too loudly and woke them up. However, there is a price to be paid for sitting in the House of Commons. Tory Members will have to deal with the fact that they have to listen to what happens in here before they vote. I hope they pay very close attention as I lobby them for their support.

The Bill is not as strong as we would have liked. I have made my pitch for a number of amendments both in the House and in committee. If debate on this Bill should end today, it is better than nothing, as the *Calgary Herald* has stated. I will support the motion and encourage my colleagues in the Liberal Party to do so, but there is still a chance, if the Minister asks for unanimous consent of the House to revert to report stage, to accept the amendments I have offered. I would be willing to grant that unanimous consent, and I am quite sure most of my colleagues would do the same, in order to improve the Bill in the way I just described.

I have described what the Bill requires of lobbyists. It does not deal with fees as I would have preferred, nor does it prohibit contingency fees. The Bill does not require a record of official contacts, in other words, who was being lobbied.

### *Lobbyists Registration Act*

The Bill contains no provision to stop someone from registering after they have been fined or jailed for making a false statement. A lobbyist who has defaulted under the Act could continue to practise their profession. That is another weakness in the Bill.

There could be stronger enforcement provisions in the legislation. However, in spite of its weaknesses the Bill still carries out its original objective, which is to register lobbyists.

I support the thrust of the Bill. I would like the Minister to reconsider my amendments. I would be pleased to give my consent, if he asked to revert to report stage to deal with those amendments.

While the Bill essentially follows the recommendations of our all-party committee report in January, 1987, it is lacking in those areas I have identified, including its failure to ban contingency fees and requirements for Tier II lobbyists.

That being said, I recommend that the House support the Bill notwithstanding those deficiencies. We want to register lobbyists. Let me state for the record that when the three-year period is up we should increase the requirements on these people.

[*Translation*]

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to this House that the profession of lobbyist is an honourable one, or should be. I note that many lobbyists in Canada do not want to identify themselves as such. They are called government consultants, vice-presidents of government relations or all sorts of other similar titles. I do not think this should be so. When the Parliamentary Committee visited Washington, we noticed that lobbyists in Washington were proud of their profession, just as lawyers or doctors are proud of theirs. And with a law that would require several things of lobbyists, I feel that we would raise the standards of behaviour and that over time, since it will take time, lobbyists will have a profession that will be better known, better recognized and more credible.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to pass this Bill today.

[*English*]

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, at the outset of my remarks on third reading of Bill C-82, let me state that the New Democratic Party voted against the Bill at report stage. In the course of my remarks I am sure it will become crystal clear to the House and those who are listening why the NDP has opposed this Bill.

The Bill represents flimflam by a powder-puff Minister who was not committed to the whole concept of registering lobbyists and lobbying.

**An Hon. Member:** You mean he is a wimp?

**Mr. Rodriguez:** There are those who would be so unkind as to use the four letter word in describing the Minister, but I am not in that group. I simply say the Minister knew who his