

fiscal year for reporting, thus relieving many corporations from making time-consuming and costly adjustments to their financial returns.

It also gives business the assurance that it can file sensitive information under CALURA with absolute assurance of confidentiality. It does this while still supporting the government process of policy analysis on key industrial questions and leaving unaffected the public access to vital information on the ownership and control of Canadian corporate society.

No doubt some honourable senators will have questions concerning the working of this bill as amended, which I suggest might appropriately be addressed at the committee stage following second reading.

Hon. Lorna Marsden: Honourable senators, the sponsor of the bill in the Senate has quite correctly drawn a conclusion that there will be some questions raised from this side of the house concerning this bill in committee. Nonetheless, we agree with the government on the usefulness of the information provided by CALURA, and we are also in general agreement with the nature of the amendments provided.

However, it might be useful if I signalled some of the questions to which we would be interested in hearing responses in committee. But before doing that, I note that when this bill was referred to committee in the other place on December 15 last no witnesses were called, leaving questions that had been raised in the other place unanswered.

There may be questions raised by many senators in committee, but there are three that come to mind at once. The first deals with the information that is supplied by this bill on technology transfer and corporate concentration of ownership. Everyone is in agreement that this has been extremely useful data. We need to assure ourselves, however, that the data will continue to be available in a form that is useful in order to explore the kinds of questions that arise within the context of the trade talks in which this government is currently engaged.

The second area of questions will relate to the access to privileged information for policy purposes. Once again, the questions are in the same area. It has been suggested elsewhere that there is a study now under way related to the trade talks that arise from the CALURA data. The questions that come to mind are: Will that be possible? Will it be enhanced? Will it be diminished? These are questions that need to be put to a technical witness in this area.

The third area of questions concerns simplification, in which the government is taking a great deal of pride. For example, the questionnaire distributed to those people who respond to CALURA has been reduced from 16 pages to something much shorter. The same is true of the questionnaire on technology transfer. That seems to be a highly desirable move and, certainly on this side, we are in favour of reducing the paper burden for business, large and small, and for the unions.

However, there are questions on which we need reassurance. For example, one of the key uses of this data is the research which goes on in many places, but certainly within the academic community, on Canadian economy and Canadian busi-

ness, on which historical continuity is of great importance. It may very well be that historical continuity is provided on these matters in the revised form of the reporting requirements for this bill, and indeed is provided elsewhere—for example, from National Revenue—but I think that is a question on which we need to reassure ourselves.

So, honourable senators, I suggest that when the bill is in committee we hear from witnesses who are capable of answering these kinds of questions and any others that may be referred to the sponsor of the bill in the meantime.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Balfour, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

THE CONSTITUTION

FIRST MINISTERS' ACCORD AND AGREED TEXTS— CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONTINUED

On the Order:

The Senate again in Committee of the Whole on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord and texts subsequently agreed to.

The Senate was accordingly adjourned during pleasure and put into a Committee of the Whole on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord and texts subsequently agreed to, the Honourable Gildas L. Molgat in the Chair.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, this afternoon we will be listening to three groups of witnesses. We await the arrival of the first.

Pursuant to order adopted on June 18, 1987, Mr. George Corn and Mr. Emilio Binavince were escorted to seats in the Senate chamber.

The Chairman: I would like to welcome to the Senate the witnesses from the Canadian Ethnocultural Council: Mr. George Corn, President, and Mr. Emilio Binavince, a member. They have supplied us with copies of their brief in both official languages, and these have been distributed to all members of the committee.

I would ask the witnesses to indicate to us who will be speaking or if they will both be speaking. I would like to remind the witnesses that we have set aside a maximum of one hour, and we will have to stay within that time limit, because we have other witnesses following.

Mr. George Corn, President, Canadian Ethnocultural Council: Mr. Chairman, I am a retired partner of Dunwood & Company, Chartered Accountants. For 15 years I was the president of the Czechoslovakian Association of Canada.

I would like to introduce Emilio Binavince. He is a lawyer with Gowling & Henderson here in Ottawa and a former professor of constitutional law at the University of Ottawa. He