

Private Members' Business

The first part of the proposed Bill C-290 is already being carried out but I question exactly how it is being carried out. Often Governor in Council appointments are made on Friday, such as the recent appointment of General de Chastelain as our representative in Washington. That draws the focus of the media on Friday and the following Monday in *The Gazette* the various other appointments, perhaps 30, 40, or 50, are printed listing who has been named and what they have been named to.

The thrust of what is happening is lost to most of the people in Canada because the high-profile ones get into the media and we do not see any of the other appointments.

The other part of this bill is important. Perhaps the bill does not go quite far enough. Subsection 2 of the bill states that the listing should contain the name of the person appointed, the position or office filled, and the salary that is paid to the person appointed.

That is fairly important. It has been pointed out by the member for Annapolis Valley—Hants that the Canadian people are looking for transparency. They want to be able to see exactly who has been appointed and exactly what we are paying for the particular appointment.

• (1150)

We have to go further, as has been suggested by one of the other members speaking, than simply publishing it. I would suggest we have to set up a board made up of perhaps senior federal, provincial and private officials of various walks of life similar to what we have in the provinces with the appointments of provincial court judges. This sort of judicial council would be made up of people of non-political stripes and all political stripes. It would look at and vet the names of people who have been put forward for various positions. I would suggest this is necessary if we are looking at various positions or appointments.

Look at the National Parole Board. There are a number of stories out right now which point out that long-time Tories are being appointed to National Parole Board appointments. Claire Carefoot, for instance, has just received a 10-year appointment. She is going to make probably \$95,000 to \$100,000 per year over that 10-year period of time. The brother of the member of

Parliament for Athabasca has just been appointed to the National Parole Board.

I do not question that possibly these people are well qualified for the positions, but I question the process that has been followed for these appointments. Had those names been put forward to a non-partisan board that spanned Canada, spanned political parties and spanned regions, for approval of the Governor in Council, then I would say yes, definitely yes, there is no problem. This has been done, as I pointed out, in most provinces with judicial appointments.

Even with judicial appointments with respect to federally appointed judges, Supreme Court of Canada, or Queen's Bench appointments in provinces, and the recent appointment in Manitoba of Nathan Nurgitz springs to mind, where in fact there is no necessity to go through a judicial council vetting in order to get these particular appointments.

In fact, I recall approximately 10 years ago an appointment in one of the provinces where a person appointed to a federally appointed judgeship had been turned down by the judicial council in that province. That had been ignored by the prime minister of the day and the person was appointed a judge, even though he did not make it past the judicial council of the province for a provincial court judgeship.

It appears we have to go further, we have to do more toward looking at not just the transparency, the amount we are paying these people, because they are paid by the taxpayers, but we have to look at how they are appointed.

Let me tell the people who may be watching this of some of the things that come up. It is just over the last little while that some of these appointments have been made. The board of directors and the president of the CBC; Northern Pipeline Commission, the Canada Development Investment Corporation, Canada Post, Petro-Can, Air Canada, the National Parole Board, International Joint Commission, St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, the Farm Debt Review Board, the Royal Mint, the Indian Specific Claims Commission, Standards Council of Canada, Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Asia Pacific Foundation, the National Transportation Agency, the National Capital Commission, Security Intelligence Review Commission, Canadian National Railways were all appointed by Governor in Council.