

Government Organization

On clause 71—Definitions

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: I have a last question, Mr. Speaker. Would not the minister think it advisable to replace the designation Queen's Printer, by a more Canadian one, one that is less archaic and that smacks less of colonialism?

[English]

Mr. Jamieson: No, Mr. Chairman; I do not feel that way. As you well know, sir, there are many members in this house who do not share the views of my friend. The fact of the matter is that in many other Commonwealth countries the expression "Queen's Printer" is used. It is used I believe by all the provinces of Canada. There is a separate act at the moment which designates and establishes the office of the Queen's Printer and it is not our intention to change that.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 49, 50 and 51 agreed to.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Chairman, I believe this afternoon there was agreement that we might proceed at this time to section 71 in respect of the Royal Canadian Mint because of the combined nature of the responsibility.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed?

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Chairman, there was no understanding on our part.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: As for us, Mr. Chairman, we do not object at this time to proceeding with clause 71 dealing with the Mint.

[English]

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As a courtesy to the minister and in view of the fact that the Mint is also within his responsibility and since I do not believe there would be very much contention about the provision with regard to the Mint, might we call these particular clauses now? I certainly discussed this with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and I understood him to be agreeable to the proposal.

The Deputy Chairman: Is this agreed?

Mrs. MacInnis: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I misunderstood.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Part X, Royal Canadian Mint.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 71 carry?

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, does the minister intend to indicate the reason for this change in respect of the Mint?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Chairman, I did this afternoon in my opening statement. Briefly, however, I might say that the main reasons are the greater flexibility it provides for the Mint, the ability to move quickly to meet situations respecting shortage of coins, and that kind of thing, as well as the ability to move in fact in respect of international sales of coins and various things of that nature. We think it is a more reasonable and rational way of approaching this matter. It appears at least to have had the general support of anyone to whom it has been mooted or proposed.

● (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I am not directly interested in the Mint except in so far as what has happened in the past, and that is probably a poor way of looking at it. We have been concerned with the fact that the Canadian Mint has not developed to the extent of being able to meet current needs. We are buying coinage at the present time from the United States; they are minting our coins. We have also had considerable difficulty meeting requirements in the past. Now the—

Mr. Jamieson: Don't try to pronounce it. I can't either.

Mr. Peters: At any rate, I refer to the coin collectors, the numismatic people. As I have always told the minister of finance, this is a great business. You sell \$1.91 worth of coins for \$4, which seems to me the kind of business in which the government should be engaged. Yet we have failed on many occasions to meet the needs of this kind of export. The Mint itself has been a reasonable operation, it has been a satisfactory operation. It is surprising that when students from my area come to Ottawa, this is one of the few things they want to see, that is, how we make our money. The Mint has been a rather cluttered operation. Its machine shop could stand a great deal of improvement; the equipment is out of date and the quarters are insufficient for the operation. I think this is one field in which members of parliament would agree there should be some expansion. The expansion would probably pay off and would be