

Routine Proceedings

efficacious result as the blank check of power is very corrupting to those within the system.

As a final suggestion, it is often the lowest level operatives in the system who actually deliver the service, the ones who actually do the work that are the best source for renewal, new and better accountability and a help for a mission statement. They usually are never asked or seriously considered.

In summary, CSIS must be accountable, not in just that it spent its money within the allowable vote and its accounts are correct. Canadians have a right to know that the existence of CSIS is worth it. My opening remarks related to a change in community attitude against top-down, we know best government activity.

● (1550)

I thank the minister for his report. I make the point for the need of better, broad based accountability. Increased public confidence in CSIS can only strengthen its role. I close by saying we hope against hope that CSIS can truly deliver a degree of security that places our nation in the ranks of the more fortunate few nations that have peace, order and good and honest government.

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GREENPEACE CANADA

Hon. David Anderson (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, on March 24 I responded to the hon. member for Comox—Alberni on a question concerning the registered charity status of Greenpeace Canada.

I looked into the situation as promised. I wish to inform the member that Greenpeace Canada was formerly a registered charity but this status was revoked in June 1989 by Revenue Canada at the request of Greenpeace itself.

The Greenpeace Canada Charitable Foundation is however a registered charity and it is quite distinct, I am told, from Greenpeace Canada.

With respect to advocacy, political advocacy is permitted to a registered charity but only in a very limited sense. When we get information that this provision is being abused of course Revenue Canada carries out investigations.

I trust this will explain that Greenpeace Canada is permitted to carry out any advocacy that it wishes and that it does not in fact receive charitable status for receipt purposes.

[Translation]

The Deputy Speaker: As the hon. members know, the Official Opposition is entitled to reply to the minister's statement. Does anyone from the Bloc Quebecois wish to speak? The same goes for the Reform Party.

[English]

Is there somebody from the Reform Party who wishes to reply to the statement by the minister?

Mr. John Duncan (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, if I understood the minister's statement there is a difference between the international Greenpeace organization and Greenpeace Canada. If I understood the context, is it allowable to transfer funds from the one organization to the other?

The Deputy Speaker: I do not believe it is an opportunity for further questioning. I think the way the rules work, as spokesman for your party you have to make a statement rather than ask a further question of the minister. If you wish to ask a question perhaps at a later time or else make a statement now putting your points on the record the hon. member may do so.

The Chair takes it that the hon. member does not wish to make a statement at this time in the name of the Reform Party.

Mr. Hermanson: Mr. Speaker, just for clarification. Was proper notice of this minister's statement tabled with the House before the statement was made?

The Deputy Speaker: Ministers are not obliged to give notice of the fact that they wish to make a statement. As the member will appreciate, it is normally done when a formal statement is being made such as was made by the Solicitor General. However, it is not a requirement that a minister do so.

Mr. Duncan: Mr. Speaker, I misunderstood the intent. The answer is that I do not wish to make a statement at this time.

Mr. Hermanson: Mr. Speaker, the Reform Party would have responded to the statement had we been notified that a minister's statement would be forthcoming.

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● (1555)

CREDIT CARD INTEREST CALCULATION ACT

Mr. Paul DeVillers (Simcoe North) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-233, an act to provide for the limitation of interest rates, the application of interest and of fees in relation to credit card accounts.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce a private member's bill entitled an act to provide for the limitation of interest rates, of the application of interest and of fees in relation to credit card accounts.

The purpose of the bill is to make the rules that govern credit cards fairer for the consumer. Such legislation is long overdue and I look forward to debating the provisions of the bill in the very near future.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)