International Peace and Security

the chairman and the executive directors, be appointed by the Government from a pool of names provided by a number of representative Canadian institutions, including:

[Translation]

—the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Federation of Students, the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the National Coalition of Voluntary Associations, the Canadian National Council of Ethno-Cultural Organizations, the Central Mennonite Committee and the National Council for International Co-operation—

[English]

—the Canadian Association of University Teachers; the Canadian Council of Churches; the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament; the Canadian Federation of Independent Business; the Canadian Jewish Congress; the Canadian Labour Congress; the Confederation of National Trade Unions; the Quebec Federation of Labour; the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; and the National Council of Women.

I fully appreciate that many people would say it would be even better if any responsible group or individual could suggest names for the pool of names. There are now, as you know, Mr. Speaker, literally hundreds of such groups concerned about peace and international security across Canada.

Our proposed list is as representative of Canadians as we could make it on fairly short notice. A great many Canadians concerned about peace and security do find themselves, I believe, belonging to one or more of these bodies I have named. People who are not included and wish to be I hope will come forward to the committee and give their views as to what other groups should be added to the list as the Bill proceeds through committee.

I gather as of a few moments ago that the Government has not yet fully accepted our amendments on the appointment process. As amendments can only be made to a Bill by unanimous consent in the House at second reading, no group is yet on any list. There is neither list nor acceptance by the Government of our concept.

I understand that the Liberals may still insist that they should, in effect, make the appointments to the institute's first board after "consultation" by the Minister concerned with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) and the Leader of every recognized Party. The flaw with that is that consultation can mean whatever the consultant wishes it to mean. It can mean nothing more than just listening and then going ahead and appointing those who, in the exclusive opinion of the Prime Minister, are meritorious. In my judgment, Mr. Speaker, it is simply elitist to suggest that appointments can be negotiated out by the various Party Leaders while the standing committee studies the Bill in detail.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. The Chair has been listening carefully since the beginning of the speech of the Hon. Member. I wish to remind all Hon. Members that discussing particular clauses of a Bill during second reading is not appropriate. The principle of the Bill is to be discussed. Let me read Citation 381 from Beauchesne's Fourth Edition:

The second reading of a Bill is that stage when it is proper to enter into a discussion and propose a motion relative to the principle of the measure. On the motion for the second reading, it is out of order to discuss the clauses of the Bill.

I could carry on but Members usually recognize that the discussion of specific clauses is something to be done when the Bill reaches committee stage.

Mr. Kilgour: I have not in the last three minutes been referring to any section, Sir. I think I am speaking to the heart, the principle of the Bill, not to a particular section. I respect what you have just said, of course, Mr. Speaker.

The reason we want the various organizations which I have named to propose people is that we think it is a more democratic, thoroughly non-partisan process which will also produce the best directors. We believe the people chosen from that pool of names by our process will command the respect of Canadians, thus getting the institute off to a flying start from day one.

There is already a fairly close precedent for what I am talking about in the legislation establishing the Economic Council of Canada. Section 4(2) reads in part:

Each of the other members of the Council shall be appointed after consultation with appropriate representative organizations to hold office for a term of three years—

We have here a chance to build on this precedent by going a little further, as in the amendment we will be proposing, by explicitly naming concerned organizations and requiring appointments to be made by the Governor in Council from among the names they submit. If this model works for our institute, Mr. Speaker, as I very much hope and believe it will, by all means let us use it again in other areas. We could have, for example, representative groups of lawyers and citizens decide who should be eligible for appointment to the bench in various provinces, as two provinces already have. We could have a peer group of architects decide which architect should win a competition to build an embassy abroad, and so on. The prospects for a more meaningful democratic process of truly participatory nature seemed virtually unlimited.

In closing, the vital thing for the Bill at hand is that we have an opportunity now to establish a wholesome and democratic appointment mechanism for directors. Let us show a little bit of originality and confidence in some very important national organizations on a matter of importance to them, to you, to me and to all Canadians, Mr. Speaker. Let us see the men and women they propose. Let us show all Canadians that all Parties in this House believe in both reforming our democratic processes and believe in our fellow citizens participating meaningfully in the appointment process of this new and hopefully successful institute.