

Supply—Industry

of the vote for professional and special services covers fees and commissions for professional and special services. The following constitute the major items of the increase. The first is the study of a Canadian communications satellite." I should have thought of that one, because it is a \$550,000 item which accounts for the increase.

Item 1 agreed to.

3. Grants as detailed in the Estimates, \$1,993,000.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the minister would attempt to get me out of the sea of confusion here. There is an item headed grants to the Canadian Standards Association, and the amount is \$50,000. Then there is a grant to assist in establishing a national standards association. On top of that I understand the department intends to set up a standards council of Canada. Would the minister try to tell the house what this is all about. It looks to me as though one is established, one is to be increased, and so on.

Mr. Pepin: Well, the \$50,000 item apparently is a standard grant of money given annually to the association. The \$80,000 item is the expenditure incurred in developing the legislation that would create the national standards council.

Mr. Hales: I thought the minister had told the house earlier this evening that no money had been spent on setting up the standards council of Canada. Now we are told that \$80,000 has been spent to set it up. The point I raised this afternoon is that a standards council of Canada is being set up, and \$80,000 is being asked to set it up. The show is on the road, and now you will come back to the house some day to ask that legislation be established to set up a national standards council of Canada. I do not think this is the way to do business. The minister should come into the house and say that he wants to set up a standards council of Canada, explain what the idea is, and then the house could approve or disapprove. At that time he could ask that the money be provided to proceed with it, and the house would give its approval. This is no way to run a business, and I think the government should stop this practice which has been followed in so many cases. The manpower department set up a whole training program, and then came to the house to ask for its approval.

Mr. Pepin: I hope I did not say it as my hon. friend indicated I did. We will look at it

[Mr. Pepin.]

tomorrow in *Hansard*. I think I said the money was not being spent as if the national council existed. I thought that was what I said. In any event the \$80,000 is money assigned for the preparation of the legislation. My hon. friend has some interesting views on this, but it seems to me that when you come with a bill to the House of Commons you do not come only with a resolution; you come also with a bill that will be taken through first, second and third readings. So it seems to me that some preliminary work must be done even in order to bring the suggestions to the attention of members of the house. At any rate I will see to it that as little money as possible is spent.

Mr. Hales: I think that not only the minister but also the government probably is in a very unorthodox position. What would happen, for instance, if the house turned down the legislation for the setting up the standards council of Canada? I for one have very grave and sincere views concerning the setting up the standards council of Canada, when there is an association now which is doing a good job and which will probably continue to do it a lot better and more cheaply than the government could do it. I do not believe it is necessary to set up another bureaucracy in order to do such a thing. However, the government intends to go ahead and set up a standards council whether we want it or not. I do not think we should be asked to vote \$80,000 to set up this council, and I am of two views as to whether I should allow these estimates to pass tonight. As far as I am concerned, I will have to make a decision in this regard.

• (9:20 p.m.)

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure what this vote involves, so far as the standards council is concerned. I hope the minister will give some consideration to the establishment of standards in the field of international trade. The necessity arises for someone to make a decision whether Canada, the United States and the western hemisphere should superimpose standards on the rest of the world. I am sure the minister is aware that most international trade is carried out on the basis of the metric system, yet we in Canada are still operating on the basis of pounds, ounces, and drams. Most other countries in the world operate on the basis of a straight metric system.