

major recommendations. I ask the members of the Liberal Government how many of those 66 recommendations have been implemented. Practically none.

I also bring to the attention of the Government that in December, 1980, the Special Committee on Regulatory Reform reported. That is an interesting committee. It indicates the sweet innocence of a new Member of Parliament at the time. I joined this House in 1979 and had the great privilege and pleasure of being appointed Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee on Regulatory Reform. I worked during the fall of 1979 and the fall of 1980 on our report, which was published in December, 1980, and contained 27 very strong and good recommendations. I would add that the Liberal Member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson), who chaired the committee, chaired it on a totally non-partisan basis. Seven of us worked very hard on the entire subject. The only problem was that the Government practically ignored the report. The major recommendations contained in the report, which might have caused some real reform in subsequent years, have not been implemented.

● (1640)

As an example of that, I note today that the Chairman of that committee, the Hon. Member for Willowdale, has been flitting in and out of the House but is not prepared to speak on this particular motion today. The reason he is not speaking on it is, I am sure, that he would have to agree with me when I say that, in terms of what the Government has done, we spent a useless six months.

Mr. Peterson: Nonsense.

Mr. Cook: I would hope that the Hon. Member would get to his feet and attempt to defend the lack of action on the part of the Government with regard to the whole question.

Mr. Peterson: Balderdash.

Mr. Cook: The Hon. Member has used the word "balderdash". The major recommendation contained in the report, which was agreed to by all seven members of the committee, was that there be a special committee set up by this House which could deal with the Departments and look at these regulations that were being proposed and at what had been done in the past. We recommended that this committee hold public hearings at which the Minister could be present to be embarrassed by the stupidity of his regulators. Was that done? Of course it was not done. The Government is not interested in deregulation. This Liberal Government is not interested in real reform. It likes things the way they are. It likes government by regulation and not by the House of Commons. It likes regulations passed by statutes so that the Minister has complete discretion over what the law of the land will be. That is the objection that we have to regulations.

I have heard the previous speaker say what a great thing it is that the airlines are being deregulated. Those recommendations have been around for years, and now all of a sudden we are getting to them. We could look at all kinds of regulations

about which nothing has been done. We have a Cabinet of over 30 people. They are bragging about the fact that fewer than half of the Departments are now doing something about deregulation, or at least thinking about it in a persuasive way.

If you talk to any businessman in the country, Mr. Speaker, he is likely to tell you two or three things. One of them is that there are too many regulations, he has too many forms to fill out, and he cannot talk to the people who make the regulations. Recommendations to deal with that complaint are contained in a special committee report and in the Economic Council report, both of which are over four years old now. What have government Members done about this? They are not interested in listening to the people. They may be interested in listening to the people for the next six months now that there is an election pending, but certainly all the work that this innocent, sweet, little Member of Parliament did in terms of the Special Committee on Regulatory Reform was useless. That innocent Member of Parliament expected to see flow from that committee something worthwhile to Canada, something meaningful, something that would save money and something that would help business in the country get ahead.

Out of the recommendations contained within that report, which ones were adopted? The easy ones, the simple ones, the ones that did not rock the boat, the ones that did not embarrass anyone, and the ones that did not have full meaning in terms of the Canadian business community were the ones that were adopted. As far as I am concerned, the \$150,000 that was spent on this Special Committee on Regulatory Reform was wasted. At least it did not cost the \$10 million that the royal commission set up by the Government is costing. At least there were some useful things contained within its report.

Quite frankly, I think that if we were to give lie detector tests to the Cabinet Ministers of the country, the people who theoretically run the country, I bet we would find that fewer than five of them even read the report that was produced and that each of those five who did read the report shook their heads and said: "We are not going to have that kind of thing going on in my Department. It may embarrass me. My senior bureaucrats will not like it. We might actually have to get rid of some regulations or change some things." They have not changed anything.

Anyone could look at the record of the Government over the last few years and see that there has been very little reform, and we are talking about reform today. In a few moments I would like to read from a speech I once made, because it makes sense today. I read that speech with some chagrin and a sense of *déjà vu*. I had the opportunity to speak to the Economic Council of Canada about the Special Committee on Regulatory Reform back in 1981. What I said then has equal application and equal meaning today because the Government did not do anything. Nothing has happened.

There are a few points I would like to make from that speech. Obviously I will not read it all. Quite frankly, I am afraid to read it all because it would probably make me cry to realize how ineffectual the Liberal Government has been and what little it has done in this matter. I simply had to bring this