

Adjournment Debate

Section 2 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

2. (1) The purpose of the Institute is to promote by all lawful means the practice of accountancy within Canada.

This is for its members within Canada. What about the CGA? What about the CMA? There are three accounting organizations in Canada recognized by this Parliament. Therefore, with the pretext of improving or updating its constitution, the Canadian Charter Accountants Institute should not acquire a monopoly in the accounting and auditing profession.

With that, I agree that we should pass this bill at second reading and go to the legislative committee so that we can invite the audit organization to present its briefs in order that we can correct this piece of legislation.

Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, we cannot really invite associations that are controlled by other legislation to make changes to this bill. They might want to bring in changes for their own at some later date, but that is up to them.

I will comment only briefly on the remarks of the member for Edmonton Northwest. Not only am I a CA of some long standing, I am also an FCA. He, at least, will know what that means.

We are pleased to support this bill at second reading and pleased to support it going to committee where any interested party will have an opportunity to make representations.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order deemed to have been moved.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to comment further on my question to the Minister for Science with regard to the scholarship program.

I am quite alarmed, as I am sure are many Canadians, that although they applaud the initiative of the government with its scholarship program which involves 900 scholarships for scientists and engineers badly needed in Canada, the facts are worrisome.

The fact is that the number of engineers and trained scientists in this country does not seem to be going up from the 20 per cent that it has been. Scientific illiteracy is rampant in this country. Two-thirds of our adult population cannot correctly identify the source of acid rain. More than half believe that the earliest humans may have lived side by side with the dinosaurs. At stake is the very future of Canada in the global economy.

A recent University of Calgary study suggests that only 14 per cent of adult Canadians have a clear understanding of DNA, and only 37 per cent understand the nature and cause of acid rain.

Two-thirds of Canadians cannot even name a single Canadian scientist. Clearly we have got a problem. If we are going to take advantage of this scholarship program and produce more trained scientists and engineers, then government action is necessary.

I was pleased with the initiative of the Department of Science and Technology, which two years ago developed a federal program to launch public awareness to nurture what is badly needed in this country—a science culture. Some \$10 million was aimed at 14 to 15 year olds in order to do this. We now see signs on buses which urge young Canadians to partake of a science education and to become scientifically literate, looking to these areas for a future job in Canada.

Clearly what some of the experts have been telling us is that teacher education in science and mathematics is lacking. Professor Paul Park, Dean of Education at Queen's University, believes that students would be more science oriented if their elementary teachers were more comfortable themselves with science.