

*Constitution*

of that group in Parliament since May, 1976, and I plan to lay down that burden at the annual meeting on November 28. I would like to say I have had very excellent co-operation from the hon. member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche), the vice chairman of the organization, and the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald), who preceded me as chairman.

● (1610)

This is really a multi-party and a two-House venture which enables us to come together to try to organize the activity and the thoughts of Parliament toward supranational activities and agencies. The ultimate goal is, of course, world government in the sense of a federal world government which preserves the governments of the individual parts but also leads us gradually toward some kind of world unity. But we need more direct and proximate goals, subsidiary goals, if you like, so the World Federal Parliamentary Association along with world federalists in general has a number of intermediate goals which it supports as being realizable in the short run. Among such have been the reform of the United Nations, the internationalization of the seabed question, and the objectives of the motion I propose this afternoon, one seeking to place in our constitution, which I believe all Canadians are determined to renew at this time in our history, a statement indicative of our desire in Canada to participate in international authorities and to subject ourselves to world law to the extent that it exists, and, to the extent it does not, to try to make it exist.

I might mention in passing that the World Association of World Federalists also adopts similar subsidiary goals and that the title of the next international conference, to be held in Tokyo next July, is "Toward a New International Order in the Third Development Decade". A great deal of stress is being placed by the World Association of World Federalists on the question of world development.

I would also like to mention that the Canadian Parliamentary Association has been very instrumental in the establishment of a new association of parliamentarians devoted to the cause of world federalism which goes by the title of Parliamentarians for World Order. A number of meetings have been held, initially at Canadian initiative, over the past few years in Washington, New York, London and Paris, to mention the major ones. The new parliamentary association will probably devote most of its efforts to working through the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and we shall be able to take a stronger position with respect to international issues than is possible for an organization such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union which is less dedicated to a particular goal and more dedicated merely to providing a forum.

The motion before us today was inspired by the submission last fall to the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada, of which I had the honour to be joint chairman, by the World Federalists of Canada, and was prepared by Mr. T. James Stark, chairman of Operation Dismantle, and Dr. Hanna Newcombe, co-chairman of the Peace Research Institute, Dundas. The introduction to that document reads as follows:

[Mr. MacGuigan.]

In so far as a number of other countries have constitutionally dealt with the important issue of national sovereignty and the need for "collective security" and international order, the World Federalists of Canada ask that our government look toward the future in the formulation of our new constitution and make general provision for the resolution of these two interdependent interests.

In support of their proposal, the World Federalists of Canada cited action taken by a number of other countries which I think worth drawing to the attention of hon. members. For example, article 25 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany reads as follows:

The general rules of public international law shall be an integral part of federal law. They shall take precedence over the laws and shall directly create rights and duties for the inhabitants of the federal territory.

That is a very strong provision to place in a national constitution. It makes international law an integral part of domestic law and subjects domestic law directly to the rules of international law.

The constitution of India provides in article 51:

The state shall endeavour to:

- (a) promote international peace and security;
- (b) maintain just and honourable relations between nations;
- (c) foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealing of organized peoples with one another; and
- (d) encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

It will not escape the attention of hon. members that the proposals I am making this afternoon in my motion are very close to those which are contained in that article of the Indian constitution. The principal difference is the addition, in the motion, of a fifth category in accordance with the request of the World Federalists of Canada which in its brief to the Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada went on as follows:

We recommend that in recognition of the interdependence of all nations and peoples, Canada declare its willingness to transfer by legislation certain sovereign powers to a world authority such as the United Nations or a federal world government as and if such actions would facilitate world peace (collective security) and a more just and human world order.

That is the source of the fifth part of the motion which is presented here today.

The special joint committee had a great deal to do in a very short time last year and was not able to consider this proposal in its only report—we had expected that the committee would be reconstituted last winter but that never happened, so the committee never really had a chance to go into this question. But I do wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the provisions of Bill C-60, a principal subject matter of consideration by the committee, did not contain any reference to international law or to the international order. There is in Bill C-60 a statement—"the stated aims of the Canadian federation shall be—". Then follows a series of stated aims, all of which are very fine, but none of which expands our horizons to the world scene, even though one of the subclauses does use the phrase "to expand the horizons of Canadians as individuals and enhance the collective security and distinctiveness of the people." The explanation of that sentiment in the detail which followed made no reference to the international order, and it is such a reference that this motion would seek to incorporate in a future document of this kind.