

*The Constitution*

Also he wrote:

—our Joint Address and having it included in the British legislation as an enabling provision that would come into effect when and only when it had received the formal approval of the legislatures of all the provinces—

Those were the words of the present Prime Minister. It reminds me of the saying: "Do as I say, not as I do". Then he wonders why the provinces are not happy with the present situation.

The present Prime Minister has not approached this matter in the same manner as former great prime ministers, such as the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent. He has used trickery and bargaining in regard to the Constitution of the country. I do not see how anyone, even members of his own party, can be proud of that. Part of that trickery was the inclusion of several items, some of which were good and some of which were bad, in one package so that people have to accept the bad with the good. Rather than separating them and voting separately on them, one must accept the whole package.

● (1740)

Today I heard a member of the Liberal Party say that they would give us rights. The Prime Minister of Canada and the Government of Canada cannot give me rights. They might be able to take some of them away, but they cannot give them. I have all the rights they want to include in the charter and some others. One has those rights if one is born a Canadian citizen. I consider that I have those rights from God and not from the Prime Minister of Canada. If the Government of Canada can give me rights, then it can take those rights away. I do not think we would be fooling the people at all by making them think that they are receiving rights that they do not have today, as the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Irwin) said. They are not receiving any rights they do not have, they are losing some, which is what I want to deal with. This is another subject to think about when one considers the Government of Canada and the Prime Minister taking part in this kind of trickery. I quote from the Kirby paper which says:

There would be a strong strategic advantage in having the joint resolution passed and the U.K. legislation enacted before a Canadian court had occasion to pronounce on the validity of the measure and the procedure employed to achieve it. This would suggest the desirability of swift passage of the resolution and U.K. legislation.

This concept is what some members opposite and some members to my left are supporting. It is trickery being performed on the Canadian people. It is no wonder that the premiers of the provinces are upset.

I would like to give you another example of trickery, Mr. Speaker. In the Constitution there is a section which limits, at least to a degree, the control of the Senate. What happened is that the Prime Minister sold out to twenty Liberal senators. He sold out for votes; it had nothing to do with principle. Where are the principles which were embodied in the administration of the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent when he spoke about the high principles of people in office and their obligation to apply those principles?

Then there was the bargaining in connection with women. The Prime Minister likes to bargain. When the hon. member

for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) pleaded for the rights of women a few days ago, the Prime Minister said that he would give her that if she gave him her support. He says that he will give anything if he receives our support. I want to tell the Prime Minister that the rights of Canadian women may certainly be discussed but that their rights are not for sale to the highest bidder. I think the Prime Minister and his party should know this. They should also know that women are not to be traded for political support.

So intent is the Prime Minister on bargaining that he even wants to trade God for lesser things. He has left God out of the Constitution. I heard the Prime Minister speaking on a radio show broadcast from Vancouver a few weeks ago. He said that the premiers were the ones who wanted to leave God out. He said that he wanted the provision but that they would not allow it. He then stopped; he would not go on to say that the preamble which the premiers had rejected included a number of factors. There is not a premier in Canada who would reject having reference to God included in the preamble of our Constitution. But then the Prime Minister goes out and ties this issue to other matters such as language rights, and he says to the people of Canada that the premiers did not want a reference to God included in the Constitution. The Prime Minister is adept at putting items that everyone wants in with items that he wants. To obtain the good, we must accept the whole package. The premiers saw through the Prime Minister's trick and refused the preamble.

The Prime Minister says and I quote, "The premiers are against God." I want to say that bargaining has its place with respect to earthly things. I also want to state emphatically that God is not negotiable and we are not out to bargain. He cannot be traded. He is a supreme being, the creator of the world and all that is good. It is inconceivable that we could have a charter of rights without recognizing the supremacy of God. People tell us not to worry about it, it will be in the charter some time in the future. I ask why not now? It is wanted by all the people of Canada.

Someone said that there are a few atheists in Canada. I do not believe there are any. I have never seen one yet. Those who profess to be atheists call for a priest, a minister or a pastor when they are dying. This is a Christian country and we should not leave the reference to God out of the charter.

The people of Canada came from far away countries. They came to Canada for many reasons, one of which was freedom of religion, so that they could worship God in accordance with their own dictates. In Standard, Dalum and other areas of Alberta some of the Danish women there built a church while their men prepared the land or went out to work. The Ukrainian women in the Vegreville area built their church. We are now saying to these people that we will be taking God out of the charter. They will be thinking that the next thing we will be saying is that we cannot even recite the Lord's Prayer in the House of Commons or in schools. If that is what the NDP want to support, and if that is what the Leader of the NDP bargained with the Prime Minister over, then I am sure the people of Canada will not appreciate it very much.