

*Unemployment Insurance*

Another anomaly exists in connection with our status as citizens. We claim that Canada is a nation, and yet not one of us has the privilege of stating that he is a Canadian. There is in our statutes no provision by which we can state that we are of Canadian nationality. People who have been born in Canada should have the right to claim Canadian nationality.

I omitted to refer to the senate. To have a governmental body appointed with authority over the people's elected representative is something which I think should not be tolerated in a democratic country. There certainly should be a good deal of reform with regard to the position of the senate.

Then we refer to the government as the federal government. If my understanding of the meaning of the terms "federal government" and "federal union" is correct, there must have been a time when we ratified a constitution creating a federal union and federal government in Canada. My knowledge of history does not indicate any time in the past when we ratified such a constitution. In addresses which I have delivered in the past I have indicated—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not like to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but he is travelling far beyond the confines of this resolution.

Mr. KUHLM: I am simply enumerating several of the anomalies which exist in our constitutional position. The method of amending the British North America Act is one.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): We are dealing with this particular amendment.

Mr. KUHLM: I am simply stating that all these anomalies should be dealt with, including the method of amending the British North America Act.

I should like to refer to one more anomaly before concluding this portion of my remarks. We have no federal district in Canada. In every other federal union there is a proper federal district which is controlled by the federal government. That should be the case in Canada. Canada is the only country in the world without a distinctive national flag. We heard a great deal about this from the former member for North Battleford, Mr. McIntosh.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must call the hon. gentleman to order. The resolution before the house does not deal with a national flag. I ask the hon. member again to confine himself to the terms of the resolution as strictly as he possibly can.

Mr. KUHLM: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had almost concluded that portion of my remarks. I have enumerated what I believe

[Mr. Kuhl.]

are other anomalies in addition to the one which exists in connection with the measure now under consideration. I believe that the best possible advice with regard to removing the anomaly in connection with amending our constitution is to be found in the recommendations contained in the report of the special committee of 1935 on the British North America Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must again call the attention of the hon. member to the fact that he is referring to the growth and removal of anomalies. What we are concerned with in this resolution is an application under the existing law to amend our constitution, and I would again ask the hon. member to address himself to that question.

Mr. KUHLM: Is it your ruling, Mr. Speaker, that nothing in connection with ways and means of amending our constitution can be discussed on this measure?

Mr. SPEAKER: The sole subject before the house is a concrete application to amend the constitution. If the hon. member is against this method of approach he has the right so to express himself, but he is not in order in discussing anomalies in our constitution. That is not within the confines of the resolution.

Mr. KUHLM: Of course, Mr. Speaker, I bow to your ruling, but I feel nevertheless that it is drawing the line pretty closely. I shall, however, endeavour to conclude as strictly in accordance with your ruling as I can.

I believe the anomaly could be overcome by overhauling our whole constitutional position. If we are to have a constitution in harmony with the constitutional principles of democracy, we can achieve it only by a complete overhauling. I see no other way of doing it than by starting right from the beginning, with an interprovincial conference followed by the drafting of a constitution which will deal adequately not only with this question but with all the other anomalies in our constitutional position. I am sorry, sir, that on this occasion of seeking to amend the British North America Act the circumstances of the war do not enable us to deal more adequately with our general constitutional position, but I trust that before many more years have passed we shall feel more free to express ourselves and to enact measures which will adequately take care of such measures as the one with which we are now dealing.

Mr. A. R. ADAMSON (York West): Mr. Speaker, I am heartily in support of this resolution to amend the British North America Act so as to allow parliament to bring unemployment insurance into force in Canada. In an