

Adjournment Motion

We were debating the need for an ombudsman, and at that time I told the prime minister that while I had no objection to this idea it was, in my view exceedingly important to establish, in the Canadian parliament, some kind of scrutiny committee such as that which already existed in the United Kingdom. Mr. Pearson agreed with me. I subsequently crossed the floor of the House and talked with him on several occasions, and it was following those discussions and the intervention of other members, that the MacGuigan committee was set up. That committee approached its work with persistence and a great deal of study. A very good report was produced. Unfortunately, its recommendations were not completely followed. But that was 12 years ago, Mr. Speaker. It has taken 12 years to get around to the report, to the presentation of a bill, a debate on the bill, the establishment of the present standing joint committee and here, for the first time since the matter was raised in the House, to taking action to come to grips with the problem which afflicts us. It is all very well for the Minister of Justice to say we are going to do this, or we are going to do that. If it takes another 12 years to come to grips with the problems our committee has raised, God help the country!

I see it is almost five p.m. On a point of order, this is a debate on a motion and I believe that, properly speaking, the debate should continue and that private members' business should not intervene. It is my recollection, however, that there has been some discussion on this matter and I am quite prepared, if it is the unanimous wish of the House, to see the debate adjourned so that private members' hour can proceed, in which case may I call it five o'clock?

Mr. Goodale: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there has been some discussion between representatives of the various parties and there is, I understand, consensus that we should proceed with private members' hour today and deal with notice of motion No. 15 in the name of the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): There have been such discussions, Mr. Speaker, and we agree.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): It is my understanding, then, that we will proceed to private members' business.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall)—Transport—Appointment and terms of reference of commission to study problems in Newfoundland; the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro)—National

[Mr. Baldwin.]

Defence—Policy of department with respect to uniforms for cadets.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions and public bills.

Shall notice of motion No. 4, in the name of the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), stand?

Mr. Goodale: Stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Stand at the request of the government.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

TRADE

SUGGESTED IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of implementing programs to assist the development of small business in this country, consisting of such positive initiatives as (a) allowing tax credits for investment in small business (b) providing assistance in the formation of small business export consortia (c) changing government tender practices so that small business supplies a portion of government purchased goods and services (d) reducing the government paperwork burden imposed on small business.

• (1700)

He said: Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin by saying that in my mind there is no segment of our society which unites this country as much as the business world; that is to say, business in general, and small business in particular. I believe this is an important observation to keep in mind, especially during these troubled times when the threat of separation and the possibility of the ultimate break-up of Canada is hovering over every Canadian.

The fact is that business problems, concerns and potential solutions in Victoria are the same as in Regina, Toronto, Quebec City, Halifax and St. John's. Therefore, if we are to keep the remaining binding fibres of our society intact, we must all pool our efforts and resources in supporting and encouraging the growth and stability of the free market system and, therefore, the basis of this system which I believe to be small and medium-sized enterprises. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in most cases the government either ignores or overlooks this sector which forms the backbone of our economic way of life. It is true that from time to time, however, the government does throw the odd bone to the small business community, some of them quite worth while. Unfortunately, I believe that these few and far between moves are made primarily for pacifying reasons with no basic, over-all commitment in mind.