

Private Members' Business

involved two languages, whether they knew it was French and English. They say: "Yes, we had an idea". I said: "What was your idea about the government?" Most of them had an idea that somehow this country was a new country, that it had evolved from colonial status. They knew of the country's association with Britain, that the country had involvement.

We should give more credit to the new people who come to this country. They are aware of the tradition, and it is a long tradition. It was 1535 that Jacques Cartier claimed this area on behalf of the French Crown. Canada has had more than 450 years continuous association with the institution of monarchy.

It would be an interesting question for the Library of Parliament. I do not know of any other country that has had that long a continuous association with monarchy. Not England; it had the republic under Cromwell. Not France, not Spain, not Russia, not Italy, not any country I can name has had a continuous association. It is a proud association.

The first time I went to Government House one of the things that struck me was the role of *le gouverneur*, the Governor General. It is unbroken line from Samuel de Champlain to the present occupant. Instead of saying that is something foreign, they are representing another head of state, these are things that I take great pleasure and take great pride in.

As the member was speaking he was in front of the mace. He and I both know that evolved from another parliamentary system, the British parliamentary system. The member for Saint-Denis mentioned it today. We

have adapted it to be a Canadian symbol. These are things I take great pride in and I do not mind passing on.

I believe in the British parliamentary system, not because it is British or it devolved somewhere, but because I believe it works so well. We have adapted it. It has become Canadian.

I would have reservations about changing a system that works so well. I believe that in some way I would be breaking faith with the people who fought for Canada. Any of us who have been to the Legions in our ridings, has seen the plaques. They always say "For King and country".

I realize deep down it was for Canada that they fought. It always says that in letters you get from people who were at the war front. They will mention that they fought for King and country. Somehow I feel that I would be letting them down after a couple of generations if somehow I turned away from the institution of the monarchy.

[*Translation*]

Madam Deputy Speaker: The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 93, the item is dropped to the bottom of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

[*English*]

It being four o'clock p.m., this House stands adjourned until Monday next, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 4 p.m.