

Business of the House

of the English which can be used throughout the whole of Canada. Until this time comes I am afraid I cannot support the bill.

There are a great many other verses. I am sure some of them apply only to the French Canadian part of our nation, if I may call it one nation. I do not think it would help to give those words. As I say, they apply primarily only to the French Canadian part of our nation and probably might arouse feelings of antipathy among some members. So I shall not give those words. But I do ask the mover of the bill to give the matter more serious study and try to carry out the request which I am sure would be common to many members, namely that there be one set of words for all of Canada.

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words on the bill because of a deep and abiding interest in it. Down through the years all of us when we were at school sang "O Canada", and we are proud of it. I wish I could vote for the bill but there is one thing which strikes me as being wrong about it. If the words in French and English meant the same thing when translated from English into French or French into English, then I would have no objection. However, since these two versions are not the same but are vastly different and have different meanings, it would be like singing a parody of "O Susanna" or some of the parodies we hear of other popular tunes. We do not want that in Canada. We do not want the French singing something which means something different from what we are singing.

In the bill you have a concoction of French words which when translated do not have the same meaning or connotation as the English version that has been in use. Therefore I think the only thing to do is for the sponsor of the bill to take another look at it. If we want one anthem, surely we can get together on a wording that has the same meaning and connotation in both French and English. I think it would be the wrong thing at this time to pass this bill as representing the views of members of parliament.

So I add my thoughts to those of other members in accepting the principle of making "O Canada", as we sing it in English the national anthem, but at the same time I raise serious objections to the fact that what is said to be the French version is more in the nature of a parody according to my understanding of "O Canada" over the years. I now conclude my remarks and leave it to

others of my colleagues to make their contributions to the debate.

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Prince Edward-Lennox): Mr. Speaker, I have followed with keen interest the eloquent remarks of the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Ryan) who has certainly put a lot of work into the preparation of his explanation of the bill. I also followed with interest the remarks of my colleagues, the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mandziuk) and the hon. member for Kindersley (Mr. Cantelon).

I too agree that it would be advisable for Canada to adopt a fitting national anthem as soon as possible, as soon as all members of the house can agree on something fitting for the country, as soon as the advice and recommendations of the provincial governments and many of our patriotic and civil societies have been received. They should have the opportunity to put forward options with regard to both the words and lyrics that have been suggested by the hon. member for Spadina. I was quite impressed with many of the poetic lyrics that would remove some of the clumsy parts of the English version. I agree with many other members that the words "we stand on guard" are probably over-emphasized, and therefore create a measure of monotony.

I also agree with the hon. member for Marquette who drew our attention to the fact that we do have a great national anthem in Canada, the royal anthem, "God Save the Queen". In my part of Canada, Prince Edward and Lennox, one of the oldest settled regions of this country, it is our habit through long usage to open our meetings with "O Canada" and close them with "God Save the Queen".

I see it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): I must advise the house that the hour for the consideration of private members' business has expired.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, on Monday we will continue the consideration of the Canada pension plan, but I should like to draw to the attention of hon. members three items on the order paper that we might wish to call at any time there may be a few minutes free. Those three items are item 51, which is the second reading of the C.N.R. financing bill; item 56, house in committee of the whole on Bill No. S-7, an act to amend the Canada