

Adjournment Motion

making decisions and reaching basic agreements with the aboriginal peoples' politicians.

With regard to process, it must be increasingly recognized that there is a very complicated process, that there are numerous stages of discussions and reporting back to parent bodies and to constituencies. If the aboriginal peoples' organizations are to be enabled to do a proper job, they will have to receive adequate funding, more than just enough to come to a First Ministers' Conference once a year. They will have to have the kind of funding that enables them to report back to their own constituencies and allows for the kind of consultative process throughout their own constituencies that is so necessary.

At some of the preliminary meetings that were held last year, it seemed as though the federal Government was mainly interested in smoking out the position of the aboriginal groups that were there. It is important that the federal Government declare its position in some detail so that these people will know what they are up against. There must be a two-way process of laying cards on the table so that people know what is involved. The federal Government expects the aboriginal groups to be up front with their positions. It is only legitimate that they should be able to expect the federal Government to do the same.

Finally, we have taken, in the accord, a small first step, but we have a long way to go. We support that first step, but we urge the Government to get on with the long journey toward proper recognition of aboriginal rights.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order! It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen)—Freedom of Information—MacBride commission report. (b) Government policy; the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor)—Veterans Affairs—Request that commemorative medal be struck to honour Dieppe veterans; the Hon. Member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer)—Grain—Cash Advance payments—Request for increase. (b) Request for assistance to farmers.

• (1720)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT PROCLAMATION, 1983

MOTION TO AMEND CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

The House resumed debate on the motion of Mr. MacGuigan:

That:

Whereas the Constitution Act, 1982 provides that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada where so authorized by resolutions of the Senate and House of Commons and resolutions of the legislative assemblies as provided for in section 38 thereof;

And Whereas the Constitution of Canada, reflecting the country and Canadian society, continues to develop and strengthen the rights and freedoms that it guarantees;

And Whereas, after a gradual transition of Canada from colonial status to the status of an independent and sovereign state, Canadians have, as of April 17, 1982, full authority to amend their Constitution in Canada;

And Whereas historically and equitably it is fitting that the early exercise of that full authority should relate to the rights and freedoms of the first inhabitants of Canada, the aboriginal peoples;

Now Therefore the House of Commons resolves that His Excellency the Governor General be authorized to issue a proclamation under the Great Seal of Canada amending the Constitution of Canada as follows:

PROCLAMATION AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

1. Paragraph 25(b) of the Constitution Act, 1982 is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

“(b) any rights or freedoms that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.”

2. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 is amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

“(3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) “treaty rights” includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the aboriginal and treaty rights referred to in subsection (1) are guaranteed equally to male and female persons”.

3. The said Act is further amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 35 thereof, the following section:

“35.1 The government of Canada and the provincial governments are committed to the principle that, before any amendment is made to Class 24 of section 91 of the Constitution Act 1867, to section 25 of this Act or to this Part,

(a) a constitutional conference that includes in its agenda an item relating to the proposed amendment, composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the first ministers of the provinces, will be convened by the Prime Minister of Canada; and

(b) the Prime Minister of Canada will invite representatives of the aboriginal peoples of Canada to participate in the discussions on that item.”

4. The said Act is further amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 37 thereof, the following Part: