

The Constitution

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, I rise with regard to motions Nos. 42 and 43 which were filed January 21, regarding correspondence, telegrams and communications between cabinet ministers and/or their present staff and Amax Limited, and any correspondence, telegrams or communications exchanged between Mr. John Aird and cabinet ministers and /or their past or present staff regarding permits for Amax Limited at Alice Arms.

I recognize that some of these documents do in fact exist. There has been a substantial period of time enabling them to be put together and presented to me through the House. My concern is that the mining company now proposes to start dumping on April 1, just a few weeks from now. The Chairman of the scientific panel that was struck by the government, Dr. Winston Mayer, has now resigned, and it is extremely important that these documents be provided as soon as possible. I wonder if I could get a date? I had filed to have them provided by March 2, 1981. I think a couple of months should be sufficient time. I wonder if I could have some direction as to whether or not those will be available prior to the mine starting to dump on April 1.

Mr. Collette: Madam Speaker, I am not aware of any of the circumstances arising from this notice of motion for the production of papers, only the fact that it is on the Order Paper. As I said in reply to the hon. member opposite, who questioned me about getting answers to questions, I cannot guarantee any particular answer will be given on any given day because of the time it takes to prepare such answers; but I will look into this particular matter.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

RESOLUTION RESPECTING CONSTITUTION ACT, 1981

The House resumed debate on the motion of Mr. Chrétien, seconded by Mr. Roberts, for an Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada.

And on the amendment of Mr. Epp, seconded by Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton)—That the motion be amended in Schedule B of the proposed resolution by deleting Clause 46, and by making all necessary changes to the Schedule consequential thereto.

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to conclude my remarks of last evening on the constitutional debate.

Since the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his government have been in power, and this has been much too long, Canada has suffered. Our economy has suffered. We have massive unemployment, inflation and high interest rates. We

have had metric conversion and gun control imposed on us, along with a bilingualism policy not necessary in many areas of Canada. We have had an energy program imposed on us that reduces greatly our chances of energy self-sufficiency and leads us steadily down the road to socialism. We are still waiting for a budget to deal with the real issues facing Canadians.

We hear the need for the government constitutional proposals from a party that has done much to cause division and bad feelings across this country, from a party that cannot be said adequately to represent the various regions of Canada yet seems intent on forcing unpopular programs on the people. We hear reports of public deception by the Prime Minister and his government when they are apparently less than candid with the people of Canada. Many Canadians fought and died for our country and our system and they and their ancestors and the free world allies would likely be a little skeptical if they were told their system needed change by someone who perhaps did not take the opportunity to really stand up for his country at the time.

Mr. Speaker, the present government, on its record, has not earned the right even to consider unilateral patriation of an amended Constitution. The provinces and the people of Canada have had enough abuse from the present federal government, and any attempt by it to do something so controversial with something so very important must be viewed with suspicion.

Canada is a lot of things to a lot of people. It is our home. Few of us would want to leave here for anywhere else in the world, and at the same time many from other countries want to come and do come here to live in Canada. Canada is renowned for freedom, fair play and respect for the rule of law. Canada is ten provinces and two territories with a host of people from all backgrounds spread from sea to sea. We have an abundance of resources and much hope for the future. We have come a long way and we have a bright future ahead. Much of what we have today and our potential for the future stems from what we had in the past. That is a good system, an enduring system that is based on a constitutional monarchy and a democratic parliamentary system of government.

All of the good qualities that make up Canada did not happen in 54 years or 114 years, but evolved over centuries with the help of precedent, borrowing from systems that have been proven over time. We enjoy our rights. Through the parliamentary system, the common law and the Crown, we must ensure our time-honoured system of government prevails to serve us for the future. We must protect our system from slipping toward a socialistic system of government, as some feel we are heading towards. We must ensure that Canada does not become a unitary state as some feel we are heading towards. We must oppose these ideologies and work to preserve and improve the parliamentary federation we have now.

We must not forget that the government serves the people; it is not that the people serve the government. At least, that is how it has been in Canada and the free world and is exactly what we should work to preserve. Rights are not granted by