

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

I have great regard for the views expressed by my colleague from the N.D.P. The great problem the N.D.P. has to face in this instance is this. While the concept of having the government own and operate any of our facilities is pleasant, the realities of administration are such that there must emerge some person or minister who is in charge. Having noted what has happened to the transmission of written ideas I would be less than joyous to turn over the whole field of satellite communication to the minister and agency obviously indicated, namely, the Minister of Communications and his department. I admire the minister's speeches and appreciate his wit. I am fully cognizant of his accomplishments. But when considering him as a Minister of Communications I shudder; I hesitate, I wonder and I reflect. I will end by voting against the amendment brought forward by my good friend for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman).

Mr. Barnett: Will the hon. member permit a question. Does the hon. member not feel that the Minister of Communications, whom he has been eulogizing so eloquently, would be more apt to poke his finger into the pie under the provisions of clauses 8 and 9 of the bill than under the provisions of this clause, as it now stands?

Mr. Macquarrie: May I be permitted to answer, Mr. Speaker. I think that the differences with regard to the prospects and possibilities of the ministerial finger poking would be similar to the difference between the figures 100 and 98.

Mr. Benjamin: Will the hon. gentleman permit another question, Mr. Speaker? I appreciate his concern about having the Minister of Communications participate in administration. Does the hon. member not agree that if a project such as we are considering here were set up, it would need a separate general manager and board of directors. The project would, therefore, not be managed directly by the minister. It might have some chance of being successful.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, if that happy abridgement could be achieved, and if the umbilical cord could be cut and dissolved, I should reflect with greater sympathy on my hon. friend's suggestion.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie). I appreciate his remarks with respect to the compassion of the

New Democratic Party. I appreciate the fact that he considers, quite sincerely, that our heart is in the right place. Actually, I found it rather sad when listening to my hon. friend to hear him suggest that he would not be able to support this amendment. The fact is that the Conservative party has some record in pioneering in communications, particularly in the establishment of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The corporation was established in 1935 by a Conservative government. It is true that there was a lot of pressure from people of various political outlooks. I think it must be said, nevertheless, that our broadcasting corporation was founded by the Conservative government. It was established by that Conservative government to provide a better national broadcasting service to the people of Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, it being ten o'clock it is my duty to put the questions on the adjournment motion.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

CANADA PENSION PLAN—EXEMPTION OF OLD ORDER MENNONITES

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, on April 28 I directed a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro). I asked the minister whether he had discussed with representatives of the provinces the possibility of obtaining an exemption for the Old Order of Mennonites from the provisions of the Canada Pension Plan and, if so, what had been the result of those discussions. I wonder whether a representative of the Minister of National Health and Welfare is in the house. I do not see one at the moment. Is someone here prepared to answer on behalf of the Minister of National Health and Welfare?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there does not appear to be anyone. There may have been some slip-up. We are inquiring to see if someone is to come here. If no one is to come I, as a colleague of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, will be delighted and honoured to convey the hon. member's remarks to the minister.