

on that weekend so that the day will be one on which people stay home and think about our history and not run the risk of the dire catastrophes referred to by the speaker.

**An hon. Member:** You still stay here anyway.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Yes, we can stay here and have a blizzard even in this place. In fact, it might be good for us to have one here once in a while.

I hope that my hon. friend, the hon. member for Hillsborough, will not feel that I am taking some of the time in this hour simply for the purpose of giving the House some useless information, but when he was telling us about the various people who had birthdays on the same day as Sir John A. Macdonald, it led me to pursue still further some research that I was doing in the Canadian Directory of Parliament. This is a book that was published in our centennial year and gives brief biographies of all those who were Members of Parliament during the first 100 years of this nation's history. On going through the book I find that we have had in Parliament since we came into being 45 persons by the name of Macdonald, 29 of them spelled Macdonald and 16 spelled McDonald.

**Mr. Stanfield:** How many were spelled with a capital D and how many with a small d?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** That was the kind of information that I was anxious to complete, but the way this book is set up did not accommodate me on that point. May I point out that in addition to having that number of members by the name of Macdonald we have had eleven John Macdonalds, seven John A. Macdonalds and four John Alexander Macdonalds. So, the place has been overrun. We have two right now as a matter of fact, but we will not go into their biographies at this point.

The hon. member for Thunder Bay had some doubts about having a holiday, but when you look at the total picture, it seems to me it is significant that we should honour our Macdonalds, beginning with the first one.

I wondered about some of the other famous names. I find that we have had only three Lauriers, two Bordens, four Kings, four Bennetts, two St. Laurents and three Pearsons. Thank heaven, as someone will say, we have had only one Diefenbaker and one Trudeau.

**An hon. Member:** How many Knowles?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Four, I believe. If hon. members are interested in this kind of research, I can pass the book around and I am sure that someone else might take away the medal for useless information.

At any rate, even though I have spoken in this light vein, the fact is that not only have we had many Macdonalds in this House of Commons but that the one whose name is mentioned in this bill today has played a significant part in the history of Canada and in the

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history of North America, and I believe we should honour his memory in the way suggested in this bill.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. James Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** I would like to make a few comments on this bill. I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). That was one of the most interesting speeches and useful contribution of information that he has made in the House in a long time. I am sorry that the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) called for the question when he saw me rise because I was impressed by the argument adduced by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) that in view of the fact we are not dealing with one birthday but a variety of birthdays, and among them are included the birthday of the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell) and the hon. member for St. John's East, it makes the over-all proposition more compelling than it was before.

I might start by paying tribute to the hon. member for Hillsborough. If one looked objectively around the House for a suitable apologist for Sir John A. Macdonald one would be hard pressed to improve upon the happy choice of circumstances which have led to the hon. member for Hillsborough being the apologist that we have.

**Mr. Stanfield:** You mean eulogist.

**Mr. Faulkner:** Eulogist or apologist. Not only has he, to many of us, embodied some of the finer qualities that we associate with Sir John A. Macdonald in his own presence, but also he demonstrates those qualities of moderation to which he referred and qualities of middle of the road moderation, as he described it, plus the jovial, erudite and good natured exterior which makes the total man so attractive. I also admire his persistence, because I do not know if all members of the House are aware of the fact that this is not the first time the hon. member for Hillsborough has introduced a bill to create a Sir John A. Macdonald day and if my instinct is correct it will probably not be the last. He has done it over a period of years, and prior to his efforts there were other members who have done the same.

In an effort to brief myself on the complete significance of the debate in which I intended to participate I reviewed previous debates. It seems to me that one of the problems which has persistently hampered his efforts is that this is a popular measure and there have constantly been more people interested and talking about it than there was available time.

I reviewed the speeches back in 1964. The hon. member attracted some very strong support in favour of his efforts. At that time the hon. member for Renfrew North, the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) spoke on the subject. That is an interesting speech for private members to read because it gives new members an idea of how private members' hour can be used to discuss a variety of subjects, not necessarily the