

are still a member of this Parliament and want to maintain a balance. Either that or you do not understand what confederation is all about.

I might say that one of the most generous periods has been under the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in the last 12 years.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Irwin:** You laugh, but the facts say so. Check them. Instead of talking rhetoric, go to the figures, they are there.

**Madam Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I am prepared to rule now on the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker). I am in the hands of hon. members. I could delay the ruling if the hon. member wants to continue his speech. However, since the amendment is an important one, I am prepared to listen to some argument from both sides. I do have some reservations about the amendment; however, I am prepared to rule now. I am in the hands of hon. members as to whether they would like me to rule now or have the hon. member continue.

**Mr. Collenette:** Madam Speaker, after quick consultation with my colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Irwin), may I say he will be quite willing to yield the floor to you to give this judgment at this time. It is crucial that we have a ruling on the substance of the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton. We are quite in agreement with that.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** If you make your ruling now, Madam Speaker, you will not be permitting us to argue in advance of having prepared the ruling. I wonder if the hon. gentleman would like to continue his speech. I do not want to hold up the debate. What is being suggested could be done the first thing after question period. It appears there is some doubt on the part of the Chair. I would like to be able to consider an argument with respect to it because I put the motion forward quite seriously. I hope that will be agreeable to my hon. friend.

**Madam Speaker:** That is acceptable to me, if that is the desire of the House. If we hear the hon. gentleman, we will have to think about what we do at four o'clock. We would again have to decide whether to continue with this matter or take it up on Monday.

**Mr. Collenette:** I am sorry, Madam Speaker, I misunderstood. I thought you were going to render a decision on the admissibility of the amendment proposed last evening. If you are saying you want to entertain argument, before you make your definitive decision, I suggest that we hold this over until Monday.

**Madam Speaker:** Is that agreeable to the House?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Madam Speaker:** We will hold it over until Monday.

### *The Constitution*

**Mr. Irwin:** I will continue. Sir John A. Macdonald strengthened the union. He knew the union and knew what he wanted to do. We have gone through a traumatic experience in Quebec—and we have short memories if we do not think it was. Having overcome a cultural challenge, we are now looking at an economic challenge. It makes little difference to me if this country is destroyed culturally or economically. In the end, it is the same result.

Last weekend I was in my riding of Sault Ste. Marie. Whenever possible, I discussed the constitution with various friends. Quite frankly, in Sault Ste. Marie at this time of the year it is not the main topic of discussion. We do not stand on street corners and talk for 40 minutes about the constitutional debate. However, I did try. I found, as probably most members opposite found, that the people want patriation. They want an end to 50 years of endless and often needless debate. There is a time when you have to get off the ski lift and attack the hill. I suggest that members opposite are too frightened to get off the ski lift and do something.

Some people have asked, what is the disagreement. Actually, they ask what we are doing here. I have a certain difficulty explaining to them that on most of the items we have agreement. We all want patriation, we all want some charter, we all agree on entrenchment of fundamental rights such as conscience, religion, expression and a free press. There have been no serious disagreements about democratic rights such as voting and the duration of legislatures and parliaments. There have been some questions about mobility rights, but in our hearts, as indicated by the speeches, it is obvious to all present that we want Canadians to be able to move anywhere in Canada and work at what they want without having to be born in a specific province or having to live in a specific province for a certain number of months.

● (1600)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order please. It being four o'clock the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions, public bills, private bills.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Notice of motion No. 8, the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty). Shall the item stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Stand.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Stand by unanimous consent. Item No. 11, the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. McLean). Shall the item stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Stand.