

with it. We would be better off not to patriate if we did not have an amending formula because we have demonstrated our inability on most occasions to agree unanimously, all 11 governments as they now stand in the country.

If that view is shared as to the essentiality of the amending formula it is the attainment of that formula which is the real significance of patriation. The real significance in the attainment of that formula is Canadian political leadership, and that is what we have lacked here in this country, in spite of what we have tried to do in the last little while by way of obtaining what is obviously wanted by the government, a desire shared in some respects by people across this country. We have lacked real political leadership.

Members opposite should not deceive themselves. The fact that this proposal comes before us at this time under these circumstances does not represent a triumph for the Prime Minister. It is a signed, sealed and witnessed testament to the Prime Minister's failure. He and his Minister of Justice may say with conviction that we, as a nation, have failed to find an amending formula. The truth is, however, that he as a prime minister, and as chairman of a range of federal-provincial conferences, has failed and failed again.

If anything, the provinces are now more suspicious than they were ten years ago. They are more hostile to federal policies and they are less interested in speculation about the national good. In side-stepping the chaos he is creating in Canada, and that is what he is doing, the Prime Minister may be bowing to the inevitable, but I tell him he ought not to be bowing to applause. There is no doubt that it is getting increasingly difficult, perhaps now impossible, to achieve consensus among the provinces and the federal government. That would take a skilful leader, and I see no point in pretending now that the right hon. Prime Minister is a skilful leader or that he fits that description.

● (1700)

I also see no point in joining hon. members opposite in pretending that failure has been transmuted into success by their enthusiasm for this measure, because that is just not the case. It is a failure however we look at it. Because it comes to us under these circumstances, it is a testament to the failure of Canadian political leadership. It was important to achieve a consensus because the histories and the perspectives within this country are so diverse that no one man can rely on his own convictions to reflect accurately all the emotions and aspirations of all Canadians. That is a Canadian fact, and it is a fact that the Prime Minister has not come to grips with.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I want to thank the hon. member for calling it six o'clock, but if he does not mind, we will call it five o'clock.

Grain Transport

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty); Computers—Use by government of databanks; the hon. member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight)—Forest Fires—Plans to alleviate hardship suffered by victims; the hon. member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly)—Consumer and Corporate Affairs—Call for investigation into reason for B.C. Telephone rate increase.

It being five 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 (Papers), Private Bills and Public Bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Item number one, the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Cossitt); shall the item stand?

Some hon. Members: Stand.

STUDY OF GRAIN TRANSPORT IN WESTERN CANADA

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil) moved:

That an order of the House do issue for a copy of the latest completed study on grain transport in western Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the response to this motion on April 14 of this year by the parliamentary secretary was that the document in question was too voluminous. In fact, and I will quote the answer:

The document requested is of a voluminous character and would require an inordinate cost and length of time to prepare. I have however sent today a copy of the requested document to the hon. member.

That is so, Mr. Speaker. I did receive the document. Then the question is, why am I asking for this debate today? It is because I have several questions which I want to put on the record. The first question, of course, is accessibility by the public.

The reason I wanted the document tabled is that once it is tabled I know it is accessible to every member of Parliament, and it is also accessible to the public.

I had a second and allied question, and that was whether this document, which I consider of some importance, was also