

British North America Act

for Carleton (Mr. Francis) concerning the ownership of shares. If the purpose of the hon. member's imputation was not to discredit the hon. member for Carleton, I do not know why it was made at all. I think we would have all been interested in hearing an explanation from the hon. member rather than from yourself, Mr. Speaker.

I would be quite prepared to entertain arguments for and against nationalization, particularly in the case of a utility company which by its very nature is monopolistic. However, I must remind the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) that whereas the charges of foreign ownership may be true in part there is another side to the argument. I think all hon. members know that the Bell Telephone Company of Canada does have its shares listed on the Toronto and Montreal stock exchanges and also that there are thousands of Canadian shareholders of the Bell Telephone Company. As a matter of fact, it is one company in our economy that has been acting in every way as a Canadian citizen, and it has certainly played a very large role in the development of our communications system.

I would even suggest to the hon. member for Kootenay West that his telephone line would not be very much good if he did not enjoy the benefit of the communications system existing in this country brought about in large part through the co-operation of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada. I am not suggesting for a moment that the Bell Telephone Company or other telephone companies co-operate with the hon. member out of the goodness of their hearts. It is probably very good business for them to do so, although from the description of the operation given by the hon. member I am beginning to wonder how generous they are in some cases.

I find nothing objectionable in the bill increasing the number of directors. I also suggest to the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm that he may even find that the company is seeking to do this in order to increase the number of French Canadian directors on the board. I am surprised that objection has been taken.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, it is six o'clock. The hon. member has killed the bill. Six o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Shall I call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Pigeon: You killed the bill.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Charles Cantin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, may I have the consent of the house to refer Bill No. S-28 to the committee on banking and commerce?

[Text]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on banking and commerce.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at ten o'clock p.m. this day are as follows:

The hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Horner), Canadian flag, alleged card game concerning proposed design; the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Rhéaume), bilingualism and multiculturalism commission, enlargement of scope of investigation; the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Cashin), transport, alleviation of great backlog of freight shipped to Newfoundland.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

ADDRESS REQUESTING AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR SURVIVORS' AND DISABILITY BENEFITS

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson:

That a humble address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen in the following words:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:

Most Gracious Sovereign:

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada in parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty, praying that you may graciously be pleased to cause a measure to be laid before the parliament of the United Kingdom to be expressed as follows:

An act to amend the British North America Act 1867.

Whereas the Senate and House of Commons of Canada in parliament assembled have submitted an address to Her Majesty praying that Her Majesty may graciously be pleased to cause a measure to be laid before the parliament of the United Kingdom for the enactment of the provisions hereinafter set forth: