

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, October 26, 1967

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

[Translation]

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING AGE QUALIFICATION FOR VOTERS AND CANDIDATES

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-172 entitled "An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (Qualifications of voters and candidates)".

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to amend the Canada Elections Act in order that only Canadian citizens may be enfranchised in a general election or in a by-election, that the age of voters may be reduced to 18 and that only Canadian citizens aged 18 and over may be entitled to run in a general election or in a by-election.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[English]

PRIME MINISTER

PROVISION FOR RESTRICTION ON USE OF DESIGNATION

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Essex South) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-173, respecting the designation "prime minister".

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the main reason I enter this bill is that I am a strong believer in Canada as a nation, a unified nation. I believe the more people we have running around this nation calling themselves "prime minister" the more confusion will be created in people's minds about our nation being one nation with one prime minister. I believe it is the height of hypocrisy for these premiers to talk of unity on one hand and then ask to be called "prime minister" on the other.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am a Canadian who believes only one man in Canada should be called the prime minister, and that man is the leader of our federal parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

HOUSING

INQUIRY AS TO ACTION TO INCREASE NUMBER OF STARTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Loney (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. It is based on the economic council report that 200,000 new homes are needed annually to house the increase in population and new family formations. Since housing starts in Canada are now running at an annual rate of 178,000, what direct and positive action is the government considering to ensure that the need will be met?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have some doubt whether a question of the type asked by the hon. member is in order. As he knows, under the rules he is obliged to ask more specific questions than this. He is asking the minister to make a general statement, and in my view this is the type of information that ought to be given on motions rather than by way of an answer to an oral question.

Mr. Loney: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In view of the importance of the matter and because it is so late in the year to reach the goal that has been set for housing in Canada, I ask the Minister of Labour will he make a policy statement within the next few days on this very urgent matter.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, a number of statements have been made during recent weeks on the subject of housing, and I do not believe that any useful purpose would be served by making a further statement at this time.

Mr. Starr: May I ask a supplementary question. Can the Minister of Labour tell us whether there are any plans to cope with this situation and to reach the target?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is restating the question asked by the hon. member for Bruce.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question for the Minister of Labour. I should like to ask him whether he will discuss with the