7000

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Members of the opposition who are asking for this committee remind me of men walking in the dark who do not know where they are going and who want to hold hands with other people because they are afraid of getting lost alone.

On the other hand, even assuming some kind of consensus could be reached in this parliament, I do not see of what service it could be in the kind of federal-provincial debate which is taking place presently.

Surely the premier of Quebec, to whom the hon. member for Greenwood referred, will not come to the parliament of Canada to ask by what kind of constitutional wisdom he should be enlightened; on the contrary, the kind of debate which might occur in our parliament will be only of strategic interest to him, through knowing what our divisions and weaknesses are.

Mr. Brewin: Oh, oh.

Mr. Trudeau: If the hon, member for Greenwood can give us good reasons for this kind of committee, I would be prepared to listen to him, but he has stated the question in a way which shows there is division in Canada. With this I agree; but I think this is the precise time when we should not throw the constitution open to this kind of debate. I think this is the time when the government should be, and I believe is, taking the leadership in indicating the constitutional processes it wants to see followed. It is changing the constitutional applications slowly, and I think this is the right way to so it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The time allotted to the hon. gentleman has expired.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

^{• (10:30} p.m.)