

is convicted of a second offence within a three-year period, the fine is increased to a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum fine of up to \$5,000. In addition, special penalties can be assessed against large firms, that is, those with more than 100 workers. Upon conviction for a second offence within three years, they are liable to fines of from \$10 to \$50 per employee up to a total maximum fine of \$10,000.

In Sweden also persistent non-respondents to official surveys of the National Bureau of Statistics are liable to prosecution at the request of the national bureau under king-in-council decree. If convicted, non-respondents are liable to a fine of up to 500 kroner, or approximately \$125.

The West German situation is also similar. In that country there is legislation which provides for a maximum fine of up to \$2,500 for non-response to official government statistical surveys.

The situation in the United States is slightly more complicated due to the fact that there exists in that country several departments or agencies which collect official statistics. However, the two most important are the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The legislation covering the operation of the U.S. Bureau of the Census provides for penalties for non-response to annual surveys as well as to certain monthly and quarterly surveys. Conviction under these provisions can result in fines of up to \$500. The situation in the case of the Bureau of Labor Statistics is somewhat different. Many of its surveys are conducted on a voluntary basis. However, in such areas as surveys of occupational safety and health statistics programs, response is compulsory and there are provisions for fines of up to \$500 for non-compliance.

Although I would like to continue my remarks on this worth-while bill, in view of the hour, Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being six o'clock, and the hour appointed for private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

### *Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements*

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING ACT, 1977

MEASURE FOR MAKING CERTAIN FISCAL PAYMENTS AND OF  
ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
PROVINCES, ETC.

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) that Bill C-37, to provide for the making of certain fiscal payments and of established programs financing contributions to provinces, to provide for payments in respect of certain provincial taxes and fees, and to make consequential and related amendments, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

**Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, just prior to my calling it five o'clock I indicated it was my view that it is important at this juncture in our history to look at the various regions of Canada and interpret how they see Confederation working. As a member from western Canada I see it as my task to present to the government how I see Confederation working in my part of the country, and hopefully we can get together on some problem solving which I feel would enhance Confederation in the future.

I also stated it is my view that over the last ten years Quebec has dominated Canadian public affairs to too high a degree, that in view of the fact that this has happened other areas of Canada, and specifically western Canada, have not received the attention in public debate and in policy making I feel they should have, and that this has added additional strains to Confederation.

I also stated that those of us who come from western Canada are not separatists, but looking at the various articles which are currently appearing in the daily media one would almost think that is what we have become. I have in my hand an article which appeared in the Saturday, February 19, *Toronto Star*. It also appeared today in the *Ottawa Journal*. It is written by Richard Gwyn, and it is entitled "The West Could Slide Out Of Confederation." While there are some observations of that writer which are accurate, I suggest that that is overstating the case rather dramatically.

Having said that we western Canadians are federalists, I believe that it is important to note that we entered Confederation of our own free will after the terms of Confederation had already been drawn up and were operative. They were operative in 1867, and all the western provinces joined Confederation after that date in a voluntary manner. However, throughout the past 110 years of Canadian history we have stressed one Canada, that we are part of that Canada, and that we want to remain in Canada.

While a few voices in western Canada today might be loudly demanding separatism, I suggest to hon. members on both