

Summer Recess

came to congratulate the Postmaster General who is also the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) on what they thought was a very good bill. I recall that even my colleague from Nepean-Carleton crossed the floor to commend the minister for that bill. I do not remember exactly who did likewise on behalf of the New Democratic Party but one hon. member did.

● (1950)

[English]

Mr. Paproski: After the next election you will be able to ask all the questions you want, you will be in opposition.

Mr. Dubois: Do you think so, my friend? It has been just about 17 years that you have been in opposition.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):—the justice committee.

Mr. Dubois: Don't talk about the justice committee. You are a member and very often not there.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, as far as the Post Office is concerned, I think that everyone is hoping that after September 1, the situation will greatly improve, an improvement which all Canadians would very much like to see. It is one of the bills which have been adopted, and I think this House has every right to be proud of this achievement which will make many if not all Canadians very happy.

An hon. Member: What about the Italians?

Mr. Dubois: Italians are Canadians as well. However, we must also remember that many bills which should have passed did not. I am referring to Bill C-37 to amend the Holidays Act. I think, Mr. Speaker, that this is a situation most Canadians expected, and I was very disappointed to read in the *Hansard* of June 29 that the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton, for whom I have great respect had proposed that this three-line bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture, whereas since—

An hon. Member: What about Justice?

[English]

Mr. Crosby: It is your fault.

Mr. Dubois: It is your fault, my friend.

[Translation]

—1966, Mr. Speaker, concerning the name of Canada's birthday, 22 private bills have been introduced to substitute the word Canada for the word Dominion. Again in *Hansard* for June 29, 1981 I read the remarks made by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) when he was saying something about various newspaper articles, as recorded on page 11045, I quote:

On June 30, 1970 . . .

. . . in *Le Devoir* under the title *Next Year, Canada Day* . . .

And one week later the subject came up in the July 6 issue of the *Gazette*. Here we are in 1981 and it has yet to be done. What surprises me is that the day after, on the other side, on July 2, the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) asked a question and said this, as recorded on page 11130, and I quote:

Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday we had Canada's birthday—

Well, one day the opposition members say that we must keep the expression Dominion Day and on July 2 the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre, who was a minister in the former government, talks about Canada's birthday. So where does that party stand?

It will be recalled that very recently in Quebec the Progressive Conservatives tried a new approach, saying that the Progressive Conservatives wanted closer ties with the ethnic groups. I have here a letter, or rather a telegram which was sent by the president of the Quebec Federation of Ethnic Groups, and I will read it, Mr. Speaker:

Right Hon. Joe Clark
Leader of the Official Opposition
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Clark:

At a time when Canada is marshalling all its forces to free itself from the remnants of colonialism and recuperate all the privileges and prerogatives of a sovereign state, we had the unpleasant surprise to learn through the media that the Progressive Conservative Party which you lead has conducted a filibuster in the Commons to delay or, perhaps, to block the adoption of a bill introduced by the Hon. Francis Fox, the Secretary of State, to replace Dominion Day by Canada Day. Is that not an anachronistic intervention within the antiquated context of the past era of the Dominion which casts a shadow on our pride as Canadians?

We would have liked that law to be proclaimed on the 114th anniversary of Confederation, to the great satisfaction of all Canadians of every allegiance from coast to coast, but unfortunately you blocked the adoption of that bill. We are disappointed about that.

On behalf of the Quebec Federation of Ethnic Groups Inc. and in my name, we hope that you will change your attitude and we thank you sincerely.

Dr. Kévork Baghdjian, M.C.

President of the Quebec Federation
of Ethnic Groups

So we responded to the ethnic groups in Quebec. We replied to this letter, this telegram by saying that this was a bill respecting Canadians, that we are proud of Canada, that we were proud that the bill provided for a holiday called Canada Day, but that unfortunately it had to be referred to committee because some believed that this issue had not been discussed long enough.