

backbiting about these things or failing to get to the things that may yet need to be done?

I am particularly proud of what the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) has done in his negotiations with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on the question of making very clear the rights of provinces to control and administer their natural resources, with all that that means.

Mr. Wilson: What about ownership?

Mr. Knowles: The ownership is there already, but as my hon. friend knows, there have been court cases and decisions in recent times which have cast some doubt upon the meaning of that ownership. Then, of course, there is the whole question of indirect taxation on natural resource products, interprovincial trade and so on. My leader has done a good job in persuading the Prime Minister to agree to that proposal. I hope it is recognized that although this provides a balance which makes the package more acceptable, or certainly less unacceptable, to western Canada, nevertheless it applies to all the provinces of Canada from British Columbia to Newfoundland. I am proud of my leader for the job he has done in negotiating this matter with the Prime Minister, but I also think—I may be cut down for saying this—that a word of thanks might even be given to the Prime Minister—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles:—for having the flexibility to discuss these matters with the hon. member for Oshawa and to agree to make the necessary changes. I think we have done a fairly good job, a number of us, in pressing the point that section 42 of the proposed resolution needs to be looked at closely in terms of the purpose for which it is to be used. I say quite openly that I have discussed this matter with at least five members of cabinet and I find they all agree with me. Each of them has said that the government is willing in committee to make any amendments necessary to put in clear language what was intended. What worries some members about section 42 is that it seems to be a method of amending the constitution which is equal to section 41. The government says, “No, the intention is only to use section 42 if there is a deadlock under section 41”.

Now, some members on the government side are still saying that the language is clear. I do not think it is, but the ministers to whom I have spoken have said that if it is obvious that section 42 needs to be amended to make sure it is used for the means of breaking a deadlock, they will put that in there. I welcome the fact that four or five ministers have said that to me. I believe that all of us should accept the fact that this does give a hope for some improvement in the package. As I said the other day, I think we would be insane to bring home a constitution which did not have a deadlock-breaking provision. We could go on for 40 or 50 years without ever getting it amended, without ever dealing with some of the other things that I also think should be considered. In particular, Mr. Speaker, even though we think we have done well—particularly, our leader has done well—in getting the concessions on the

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resource bit, and even though some of us think we have done well in getting several ministers to agree to make section 42 applicable only if there is a deadlock under 41, there are still other things that the committee ought to look at. My plea is that we try tonight at one o'clock to pass this motion unanimously and send it to the committee so that the committee will know that there is in Parliament good will, that it wants in good faith consideration of some of the other things. There are quite a few but I am going to emphasize three, one was mentioned just a moment ago. In my view, the whole question of the protection of the rights of women is something we should still look at further. I know that the government says that there is language in there about equal rights and so on, and one of my colleagues will be dealing with this later tonight. Court decisions have shown there really is not equality and I would like in particular to see the committee look at it. It is my feeling that if we keep on fighting each other with nothing but contention and acrimony the committee will stiffen up, will tighten up and do nothing. As I said when I first rose to my feet, my plea is that we send this to the committee with good will, asking its members in good faith to deal with other matters, such as a formula for including women's rights in the constitution.

● (1920)

I say the same thing with regard to the rights of our native peoples. They feel very strongly about this, as every member of this House knows. They feel that the assertions in the proposed resolution about the continued existence of the treaties and rights that are there is not enough and that something more should be done.

As I say, we are proud of the improvement that we won but that does not stop us from saying that more should be won. It is my feeling that we will not get any more changes if we just tighten up and make this a battle from one side to the other. Let us admit that we have had our battle—three weeks of it. Let us give it to the committee in a spirit of good will and ask it in good faith, both sides, to ask the Liberals to look very squarely at the pleas which will come for women's rights and native rights. I ask the House to say, through the way it votes tonight, that we want these issues left open so that they can be dealt with in the constitution if it is at all possible to do so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles: I was pleased a moment ago to hear the hon. member for Don Valley East (Mr. Smith) raise a point, which was one of the three that I intended to deal with in this portion of my remarks, namely, the rights of the handicapped people of this country. They feel very upset that nothing seems to be done for them in this constitution. Again, I would like to see that done.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles: As I say, Mr. Speaker, if we carry on in the committee the way we have carried on here for three weeks, as just a contest, a party vote, nothing will happen. It is too