

greatest nationalist. What a magnificent home that would have made for the Leader of the Opposition!

● (3:30 p.m.)

While I am talking about the historic value of historic residences and the propriety of their being utilized to the full, I still believe that the Prime Minister of Canada should be living in Earncliffe, the home of Sir John A. Macdonald who was the father of this country in every real sense in so far as our political institutions are concerned. I am sure, and I know this to be the case, that it could very easily have been arranged, because the British are very amenable and understanding about this.

So my suggestion would be that the Prime Minister should be in Earncliffe, the Leader of the Opposition should have been in Glensmere, and Mr. Speaker in Stornoway. What has been done in reference to The Farm, a beautiful place, very well presided over with great charm and hospitality by our present Mr. Speaker and by preceding speakers, is fine, but I do believe that it is not enough. I believe that the Speaker of this House, the first commoner, the great defender of our traditions, the most important man on the hill, the Speaker, should have a residence right here in the city of Ottawa. I think the government should make moves to provide him with one. Kingsmere, The Farm, is a delightful place. We all love to go out there in the summer, and Mr. Speaker is very generous with his hospitality. Someone mentioned booze, there. I do not know what he means by that word, but perhaps he means the lovely band which is often there to charm us with the spirited airs of some of the great waltz kings of the past!

As I said at the beginning, Sir, I was chosen to speak because I have no personal interest in this, but perhaps I do have a personal interest once removed. I am looking forward to the day when my leader will be in the Prime Minister's residence, and I expect him to invite me there once in a while. The pleasure that should come to the long suffering people of Canada will be many times greater even than mine when I go there as his guest. So, that is my only personal involvement.

I do not propose to discuss this measure overlong. I have a feeling it is one on which there is a good deal of unanimity, or at least consensus in the House. I grasp the rare opportunity to congratulate the government without much qualification, and I say that we should move forward. I think we should not be satisfied with the provisions which we have made for Mr. Speaker. I congratulate the government for moving as it has in reference to the residence for the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, this bill is in one sense a companion piece to the bill we discussed the last two or three days. At least it is before us in the name of the same minister, the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), and it is going for detailed study to the same committee, the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization. But it is quite a different bill so far as the response of the House to it is concerned. Indeed, it is already clear from what has been said by the sponsor of the bill and by the hon. member

Prime Minister's Residence Act

for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie), that this bill will receive the general support of the House.

It was interesting, as it always is, to listen to a bit of history about some of these things that we take for granted. I think the item in the history that the President of the Privy Council gave us which was not interesting was the fact that when certain private individuals established Stornoway as an official residence it was to be limited to the leader of the Progressive Conservative party or the leader of the Liberal party. As hon. members are aware, we called order at that point, but we were soon corrected by a later stage of history which was recited to us, namely, that when the property was taken over by the government, or at least when government money was put into it, it was made clear that it was to be the residence for the leader of the official opposition. It would have been most unfortunate in historical terms if it worked out that our leader, while he was leader of the official opposition, would have to find a residence somewhere else but nevertheless would move into 24 Sussex Drive when he became prime minister. Now, it is clear that during that interim period when he would be leader of the opposition he would be an occupant of Stornoway.

Mr. Stanfield: Does he not plan to go directly to 24 Sussex Drive?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): As a matter of fact I accept the rebuke that the Leader of the Opposition has just given to me. If I heard him correctly he asked if the leader of this party does not plan to go directly to 24 Sussex Drive. Perhaps if he were here he would make the same comment. I remember, in fact, that once upon a time a leader of the opposition refused to go into Stornoway saying he was not going to waste any time there, he was headed for 24 Sussex Drive. Believe it or not, he made it, so maybe history will repeat itself.

Mr. Caouette: Not with the same party.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am not hearing all the interjections that are being made, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps they should be on the record. There was one which I heard a moment ago when I rose. One hon. member from across the way—at least he was across the way, but now he has moved into the Prime Minister's seat—

Mr. Benjamin: The only way he will get it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):—in any case, I heard him say "Stanley will want a house for everyone in this country". Well, that is right. Now we have that clear, may I move on to the bill itself.

Actually, the bill does not make any real changes except for one that will come into effect on the day of the next election. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is already a resident of 24 Sussex Drive; the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) is already a resident of Stornoway; and the Speaker of the House already has the privileges and the occupancy of the residence up in Kingsmere which we know as The Farm. I believe it is clear