

*Dominion-Provincial Conference*

placed before a subsequent meeting of prime ministers and premiers.

• (4:30 p.m.)

I expect the same will be true in the field of human rights, the entrenchment of which is also to be the subject of, discussion at the ministerial level. I think it would be fair to say that the entrenchment of political rights in the constitution would meet with but little opposition from the provinces; that is, if I have interpreted the statements made at the conference correctly. If one is to judge by the statements made, the main areas of difficulty and disagreement are those concerned with legal rights, egalitarian rights and economic rights.

I think it would be unwise and unrealistic to expect in this or in any other subject matter which has been moved from the official level to the ministerial level for discussion, that rapid progress can be achieved. I see extensive consideration being given to all aspects of these matters, and it is right that this should be so because we are dealing with a fundamental document that concerns our lives as Canadians. This being so, I certainly hope that ministers will be able to report progress in the definition of issues, and perhaps some consensus, to the Prime Minister and the premiers when next they meet.

I am not going to deal again—

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, I regret to interrupt the hon. minister but his time has expired.

[*English*]

Does the house give unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** I will just take two minutes, Mr. Speaker. I want to give the other hon. member the opportunity to speak if I can. I am not going to deal with the Supreme Court of Canada. I hope it was clear from the conference that there is quite a difference in view that must be reconciled between the federal government and the province of Quebec.

We foresee many long months of discussion and negotiation, but the second session of the constitutional conference left me with a feeling of movement, with a feeling that the provinces are now concerned with constitutional review, and that they will work with

[**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton.)**]

us, despite the differences in approach to various subject matters, to make this review successful and meaningful. I think that all those present at the conference were conscious of our 100 years of living together and developing together. They were also conscious of the necessity for our examining the basic law in this country with a view to ensuring that it meets the needs of the future.

I think one of the best aspects of the conference was the educative value of the conference to the people of Canada. I do not know how many school children were allowed by their teachers to watch the three days of sessions, but I would say they would have learned more in three days about Canada, its various interests, conflicts and differences, than they would ever learn by reading textbooks for three years. They heard differences of opinion; they heard differences in approach; they saw differences in need. But I believe that the children of Canada saw no difference in motive. I am sure that they are shrewd enough to understand that the motive of everybody there was to fulfil the common expectations and hopes of those of us who live in the northern half of this limitless continent, with all the blessings of nature that it has received. If our children have not come to realize that we are the most fortunate cluster of people on the face of the globe, then they really did not understand the conference.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Does the hon. member for Lotbinière wish to ask a question?

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, under standing order 6 (5) (a), I should like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Rodrigue):

That the sitting continues until six o'clock today in order to carry on the present debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** The motion of the hon. member for Lotbinière is in accordance with the provisions of standing order 6(5) (a).

Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Some hon. Members:** No.