

and indeed religious reasons—and surely we have not lost some of the threads of our religious background in this society—should not pass.

I listened with interest to the remarks of my colleague, the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart) with whom I have been travelling of late, and I say to him that if his bill were before us I would support it because I think that the depiction of the great prime ministers of the country on the currency of the land is a forward step and one which enriches our history. To do what is suggested in the bill before us, however, does not enrich our history; it forgets the past, ignores the significant uniqueness of this country which makes us not a republic and not what Macdonald wanted to call it but a unique society peacefully achieved, democratically developed and internationally recognized.

In "dominion" we have a concept in which Canadians of all the provinces surely can find meaning. I adhere to the name "dominion" and I will try to do my best to adhere to the goals which were advanced when that name, as the country, was first created.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I gather that there is some disposition to pass this bill and refer it to the committee. I am in agreement with that but I wish to point out seriously, and I hope not narrowly, that last week on February 10 the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) introduced a bill recommending changes to the Hazardous Products Act, the principle of which has been adopted by the government. It could easily have been referred to the committee and been considered there in light of the new legislation which the government announced is being introduced. For some strange reason government members talked the bill out.

I hope that this is not a one-way street; that is, I hope the government is not permitting only government members' bills to go through second reading stage and be referred to committee. Therefore, while we are agreeable to this action today—and I hope the bill will go to committee—I hope the government will reciprocate and will let some of our bills go through which are just as worthy as this one.

Mr. Forest: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to say that during this session some bills presented by members of the opposition

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have been passed and sent to committee. I remember one particularly, introduced by a member of the New Democratic Party, the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman), which received this treatment.

Mr. Bell: What has been the proportion of government bills passed?

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, since there does seem to be a recognition of the fact that this bill will be passed and will go to the committee, I just wish to confirm what my colleague has said—that we want this to be done. We do have a reservation about Canada Day always being celebrated on a Monday. For example, we do not want to celebrate it on July 4, but that is a detail that can be dealt with in the committee.

With regard to the remark about bills introduced by a member on this side of the House not being passed and sent to committee, I think that my friend, the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent), will feel that if this bill is passed, in effect approval will be given to the bill which he has on the Order Paper, Bill C-104, which also asks that our national holiday be known as Canada Day. We will be happy to see this bill passed and go to committee for study and possible amendment on the one point.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

CANADIAN CURRENCY

EFFIGY OF FORMER PRIME MINISTERS TO BE PRINTED ON BANK NOTES

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane) moved that Bill C-30 respecting Canadian currency (effigy of former prime ministers), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Bell: Is it a worthy bill?

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): It is so worthy that it has already been accepted. Mr.