

Speech from the Throne

We can proudly say, Mr. Speaker, that in instituting social justice our government has made sure that the health of our people receives top priority—for without health of mind and body, nothing can be realized. We can proudly say that Canada has made great progress in improving its health and welfare system, especially since 1957, with the introduction of hospital insurance, followed by medicare, the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Assistance Plan, youth allowances, the guaranteed income supplement, many consumer protection laws, new drug programs, restrictions in the use of DDT and phosphates, the Canada Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the day-care centres program and many other programs. The budget for the Department of National Health and Welfare alone for the next fiscal year is \$3.8 billion, and I believe that this sum will go a long way to improving still further the quality of life of our citizens.

Last week the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) announced a new program in the House to combat narcotic addiction and the misuse of stimulant drugs. If this program is to be successful, it must be properly enforced. Methadone maintenance and amphetamine restriction programs are a fairly good beginning in the national effort to control drug abuse. I hope the minister will soon give his further attention to the other recommendations in the policy statement of the Canadian Medical Association issued on February 14, and particularly to that statement which said that the drugs most extensively used and most frequently misused today are alcohol and tobacco. Programs and necessary legislation to deal with these problems should be developed in co-operation with provincial health authorities without delay. The increased incidence of venereal diseases should also receive greater attention by governments at all levels.

Canada's number one killer, Mr. Speaker, is cardiovascular disease. In 1971, about 77,000 Canadians died of various forms of cardiovascular disease. Last year, heart attacks and strokes alone accounted for 50,000 deaths in Canada; yet only \$5 million was spent on research in these diseases. Of that total, only \$1.5 million was contributed by the federal government. I therefore wish to renew my appeal to the Minister of National Health and Welfare to launch a full-scale national attack on cardiovascular diseases. The minister should allocate more financial resources to increase research in this field and to assist the provinces in the provision of better emergency treatment and long-term care in the areas of heart disease and strokes. Also, he should help in launching a campaign for the education of the public.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that the Speech from the Throne has clearly outlined our problems and our goals. It has also announced remedies and means to deal with them. I hope that Parliament will act responsibly and support the government's proposed legislation so that the quality of life for all our people may be further improved.

[Translation]

Mr. Godin: Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

[Mr. Haidasz.]

[English]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**CANADIAN CONSTITUTION****APPOINTMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS—TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, may I have the consent of the House to revert to motions in order to bring forward the terms of reference for the special joint committee on the constitution? This motion has been cleared by all the parties and its purpose is to set up, or reconstitute the committee so that it may make its report to the House at an early date.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. members have heard the minister. Is it agreed that the House revert to motions in order that the minister may move his motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen moved:

That a special joint committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to examine and report upon proposals, made public, or which are from time to time made public by the government of Canada, on a number of subjects related to the constitution of Canada during the course of the comprehensive review of the constitution of Canada, which review was agreed upon at the Constitutional Conference of the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premiers and Prime Ministers of the provinces in February, 1968, and alternative proposals on the same subjects;

That the committee have power to appoint, from among its members, such sub-committees as it may deem advisable or necessary;

That the committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House of Commons;

That the committee have power to report from time to time, to send for persons, papers, and records, and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee;

That the quorum of the committee be 17 members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, as long as both Houses are represented and that the joint chairmen be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof, when 7 members are present so long as both Houses are represented;

That the papers and evidence received and taken on the subject in the second and third sessions be referred to the committee and made part of the records thereof;

That the following members be appointed to act on behalf of the House of Commons on the special joint committee, namely: Messrs. Alexander, Allmand, Asselin, Breaux, Brewin, De Bané, Dinsdale, Fairweather, Gibson, Gundlock, Hogarth, Lachance, Laprise, MacGuigan, Marceau, Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo), McQuaid, Osler, Prud'homme and Rowland.

And that a message be sent to the Senate requesting Their Honours to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems so advisable, some of its members to act on the proposed joint committee.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock, I will now leave the chair to resume same at eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.