

of the provincial representatives to this conference. Special care should also be taken to have on such a commission representatives of provincial minorities. I would also suggest that the deans of law faculties in the dominion be called to participate personally, or through representatives, in the work of this commission.

As regards the representation of the dominion government, I should think that some of our experts in constitutional law could be called upon to form part of the delegation. I should like to mention especially some of the outstanding experts like Professor Kennedy, Mr. P. C. Edwards, Doctor Beauchesne and Doctor Ollivier.

One may object to such a proposal on the ground that the personnel of this commission might be too numerous. After having given full consideration to this matter, I came to the conclusion that this objection would be counterweighed by the fact that such a commission would receive satisfactory appreciation by the people of the country. This would also be a way of expediting the business in organizing some sub-committees who could prepare the suggestions for the commission itself.

The last important point I should like to submit to the attention of this house is that the report of this commission should be adopted by each of all the provinces, as well as by the Canadian parliament. I sincerely believe that with the concurrence of all the interested parties there surely can be found a way of amending our constitution which would meet with the agreement of every province.

Therefore, to summarize my contention, I should like to say, first, that the Canadian government must take, at the earliest opportunity, the initiative of setting up a commission to study the procedure of amending our constitution; second, that the provinces must be invited to collaborate in the setting up of this commission which could not be organized if any of the provinces objected to it; third, that the deans of law faculties throughout the dominion should be invited to collaborate in the work of this commission; fourth, that the report of this commission should be sent to the dominion government and to the governments of all the provinces at the same time and, fifth, that to come into force, this report should be adopted by the dominion parliament and by each one of the provincial legislatures.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I wish to state that in voting in favour of this resolution I sincerely hope it will be the last time we are called upon to discuss a resolution of this kind.

[Mr. Dorion.]

Mr. ROCH PINARD (Chambly-Rouville): Mr. Speaker, at the outset of these remarks I wish to express the astonishment I experienced when I noted how some hon. members have decided to oppose the present resolution. I had thought—I trust my naivety will be excused—that this resolution would be adopted unanimously, that is to say without a single dissenting voice. As a matter of fact it appeared to me strange that any of the people's representatives in this chamber could oppose the principle laid down in the measure we are considering, a principle by virtue of which the very one who fights it has the right to speak in this house.

This principle constitutes the very basis of our system of government. When I heard certain of our opponents state their intention of voting against the resolution I could not keep from thinking of the injustice of their attitude. By their opposition to this measure they wish to deny to others the right they at present enjoy of speaking in the name of the population after having been chosen by a certain number of citizens who have the right to demand a representative who will be their spokesman in this parliament.

I know that several of those who have opposed the resolution have stated that they are not fighting its underlying principle or spirit, and I will go so far as to say that nobody in this house can take exception to the essential feature and purpose of this measure. But I firmly believe that all those who have taken upon themselves to join battle with us by raising objections on the score of delay or for the sake of appearances perform nevertheless the same job and seek the same result, which is to prevent each of the provinces making up this country of ours from having in the House of Commons the number of representatives to which its population entitles it.

There are several ways of combating legislation which one does not want to see adopted or approved. Exception can be taken to its spirit, or one can attack its substance and its form; one can bring forward amendments thereto, or again one can suggest postponements or formalities before it is adopted. When legislation involves the enunciation of a principle which it would be dangerous to deny or to ignore, such as is the case here, they go about it more skilfully. Opponents insinuate that they unhesitatingly accept the principle laid down; they even go so far as to pretend that they are its only true champions. Then some parliamentary means or expedient of procedure is contrived to combat the measure and one often obtains the result sought after. In certain cases it is even