

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, October 5, 1967

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

● (2:40 p.m.)

BROADCASTING ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING REGULATION OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISING

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-157, to amend the Broadcasting Act (cigarette advertising).

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is simply to extend the powers of the Broadcasting Act to enable the Board of Broadcast Governors to regulate cigarette advertising in the interests of public health.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK ACT

AMENDMENTS INCREASING CAPITAL AND BORROWING AUTHORITY, ETC.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Industrial Development Bank Act to increase the authorized capital of the bank from \$50 million to \$75 million; to increase the authorized borrowing authority of the bank to an amount not exceeding ten times the aggregate amount of its paid-up capital and reserve fund; and to make certain other changes in connection with the administration of the act.

Motion agreed to.

[Translation]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON STATEMENT BY QUEBEC PREMIER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

Would the minister care to comment on the statement of the premier of Quebec concerning national unity and the constitutional problems.

Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Minister of Justice): Willingly, Mr. Speaker. In the first part of his statement, the premier of Quebec has indicated that the first duty of the people of Quebec was to use their powers under the Canadian constitution as it is. That has always been the position of our government.

Secondly, he has indicated that certain rights of the French-speaking community in Canada should be included in the new constitution and that is exactly the position taken by the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Pearson) when he suggested a conference of the provincial premiers at the July 5 meeting on a constitutional Bill of Rights.

On these points we are in perfect agreement with Premier Johnson. We are happy that he is finally coming around to our point of view.

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Will this statement bring the Minister of Justice to call a federal-provincial conference at the shortest possible time to consider all these constitutional questions?

Mr. Trudeau: That is not, Mr. Speaker, the position of Premier Johnson.

He has indicated that the conference called by Mr. Robarts is most important, and that is also my view. We are most happy that this conference should take place and we hope that, on this occasion, those who for a long time have been uttering vague formulas will finally negotiate on fact. After that we will be happy to meet the provinces to discuss facts, not words.

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put another supplementary question. In view of the fact that the minister has just said that the conference called by Mr. Robarts is most important, will he not change his mind and will he not attend as member of the government? Will he not change his mind and will he not personally represent the Canadian government at this conference?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, Premier Robarts indicated that it was an interprovincial conference. Under the circumstances, it would be difficult for the federal government to be