

is no doubt that the young people of Canada must have an interest in our constitution and that they must put forward their ideas in respect of any review of the constitution, or any reforms. The hon. member spoke of parliamentary procedures which might be simplified. I believe it is very important that we have the ideas of the young people in this regard.

I support the principle of the hon. member's motion in respect of the provision of annual seminars for young Canadians from shore to shore under the supervision of M.P.'s and officers of the House of Commons and Senate, so that those young people may gain insight into, and understanding of, the workings of government in deliberation and action. I should also like to thank the hon. member for presenting his motion.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, speaking of the Canadian youth of today, I cannot forget the Prime Minister's attitude towards youth. I believe he is the first chief of state able to communicate and really to hold a dialogue with people of all ages and especially with the young. He has shown recently, as throughout his whole political career, and even prior to that, that he always concerned himself with young people, in short, that he always took an interest in conversing with them.

I was referring earlier to an imaginary door or barrier existing between young people, the various levels of administration and other generations.

If we look at Canadian university campuses to-day, we can see many reactions and often people wonder if what is going on in some cases is justified.

Well, I think it is very simple to explain. Young people have something to contribute, something to give, something to say and let us admit it, our institutions, whether government or private business, do not take them into account. Our structures do not permit us to listen to young people, to allow them to participate and, above all, to accept or, at least, to consider their ideas.

Young people are asking for something, and those who should answer them do not know how to go about it. As far as I am concerned, this reaction of students or young people before these problems is easy to understand.

This government compromised itself recently when it tried to remove regional disparities in the country, not only from the

Youth Extension Program

economic point of view, but mainly by emphasizing the fact that the problem of national unity would never be resolved before these disparities are removed.

Obviously, in these areas, the people will have to be motivated, they will have to awaken and to work.

I should just like to point out the necessity to encourage young people in these areas and the necessity to recognize a region where perhaps the young people will be called upon to find solutions as rapidly as possible.

It is certainly on young people that our hopes must rest, our chances of succeeding in those areas. The motion before us this evening is quite realistic, because it provides for the establishment of structures and direct participation of young people organizations.

I think that it is a way to hear the contribution of young people especially through seminars, because it is quite important that all Canadians should truly understand the nature of government work at all levels, especially that of the federal government which has become such a big and complicated business.

I think that, from that point of view, it prepares the young people to know the government better and to understand our procedure. Consequently, they will be ready to discuss government policies and, in addition, when they will be in the business world, in law practice, in the educational world or in any other profession, they will understand better the different departments of the government and its various procedures.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I regret to have to interrupt the hon. member, but I must remind him that the hour reserved for the consideration of private members' business has expired.

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we would have no objection if notice of motion No. 16 were allowed to stand at the request of the government and kept its place on the order paper, as mentioned.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): It being seven o'clock I now leave the chair.

At seven o'clock the house took recess.