

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

some provinces will have to be submitted to an objective court representative of the parties involved.

That is why, Mr. Chairman, there must be established a constitutional court with judges appointed by Ottawa and the provinces. I would therefore call upon the minister to take this suggestion in serious consideration and to convene the provincial attorneys general at an early date for this purpose.

**Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the reasons given by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) for inviting the attorneys general of the provinces to examine the question of setting up a constitutional court.

There is no doubt that, in this respect, the hon. member reflects quite accurately the findings of several committees and seminars on the subject, where the setting up of a court to settle the constitutional problems of Canada was advocated.

Now, I think that the hon. member was right to point out that the judicial committee of the United Kingdom was replaced by the Supreme Court of Canada.

We have had in Canada a court which in fact was a real constitutional court and I do not admit at all the arguments of the hon. member for Sherbrooke to the effect that, considering the way appointments are made, the Supreme Court might not be independent and that its judgments were not objective. I maintain that, in its deliberations and constitutional decisions, the Supreme Court was always completely independent and very effective. As a matter of fact, it has rendered great services to Canada thanks to its decisions on constitutional matters.

I suppose that the hon. member did not want to question the objectivity of the Supreme Court. His suggestions about the constitutional court might have some value, although I do not know to what extent they are worthy of consideration, but there is no doubt that the amendment of the constitution must be studied by the government. There are also other organizations, such as the provinces, which can also make other suggestions along these lines.

The constitutional court advocated by the hon. member may be a good idea, but it should be ascertained whether it is timely to broach this matter. In fact, officials of the Department of Justice have not yet seriously considered convening attorneys general to

[Mr. Allard.]

discuss the matter. Of course, we think it will be necessary, at a given moment, to arrange a meeting of the federal and provincial authorities in order to study this problem, but this is not contemplated at the moment.

The suggestion of the hon. member for Sherbrooke may have its merits and I can assure him that it will not be disregarded.

At the moment, however, there is no question of convening the attorneys general.

**Mr. Valade:** When will it be appropriate to convene them?

**Mr. Cardin:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member can answer this question just as well as I can. [English]

• (10:20 p.m.)

HOUSING—TORONTO—COMMUNITY CENTRE  
FACILITIES FOR DOWNTOWN  
DEVELOPMENTS

**Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I raised the question with the Minister responsible for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation as to what response the Corporation had made to a proposal for the construction of a housing development in downtown Toronto to be known as Trefann Court and more particularly whether any recommendation had been made to include a community centre as part of that development.

By way of setting the scene I would refer to a report in the *Globe and Mail* of February 10, 1965 in which it is stated:

City Council yesterday approved the final draft of a \$9,144,000 urban renewal plan for Trefann Court, a rundown 24 acre industrial, residential and commercial area bounded by Queen, Parliament, River and Shuter streets.

This is in downtown Toronto. I would point out that Trefann Court is in immediate proximity to what is probably the heaviest concentration of public housing in any constituency in Canada—Regent Park North and South.

To illustrate the high population within a few city blocks I would refer to the following information made available to me by Central Neighbourhood House, a united appeal agency which has done yeoman service in this neighbourhood. In the North Regent development there is a population of 5,153 people of whom some 2,612 are children. There are 1,400 families. In South Regent there are 3,801 people of whom 2,419 are children divided among 732 families. In other words, there are more than 5,000 children in these developments within a few blocks.