

have to be made? How soon will it have to be made? Certainly it will be made some day.

Mr. CHURCH: If I may ask the right hon. gentleman a question, would not any change in the style of titles require a proper address from both houses of parliament, and would it not involve a change in the British North America Act?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No, I do not think it would involve any change in the British North America Act, because the language in which the title is now expressed is not the language we find in the British North America Act. The language we find there is:

The provisions of this act referring to Her Majesty the Queen extend also to the heirs and successors of Her Majesty, Kings and Queens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

That is no longer the form in which the royal style and titles is expressed, so I do not think it would require any change in the British North America Act. But it would require the concurrent action of the parliament at Westminster, of the parliament at Ottawa, of the parliament at Canberra, of the parliament at South Wellington, and of the parliament at Pretoria. Until all that is done, there would be no change legally made which would conform with the terms of the statute of Westminster.

Mr. FERGUSON: Would there be discussion on it, before discussion took place in this house? Would an item of that kind be discussed at a conference?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes. All I am saying this afternoon is that, through the ordinary diplomatic measures, we shall endeavour to ascertain whether the governments of the other members wish to have it on the agenda for discussion at the next conference.

Mr. FERGUSON: Then it would be discussed?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes, it would be discussed there; and it would have to come back here, and be discussed here, before it could be done.

Mr. FERGUSON: Would all the points pertaining to it be discussed at the conference, prior to its being discussed in the House of Commons?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes, the whole matter would be discussed at the conference. They would discuss as to whether or not it was advisable to take such action. There might not be agreement; and unless there was agreement it could not be done. It is something which any one of the units could prevent. One

dissenting state could prevent its being done. It would have to be something to which all those governments unanimously agree.

Mr. FERGUSON: A discussion in the conference prior to its being discussed in this house might give a wrong impression throughout the world respecting the thoughts of the majority of Canadians regarding the subject, the way real Canadians feel on the subject.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I would not admit that real Canadians would feel that it was necessary to keep the title in such form as would give anyone the impression that this country was still *in ditione Anglorum*.

With this declaration, that we shall ascertain whether or not others would feel desirous of discussing it, it seems to me that perhaps the hon. member would be content to have his motion dropped. It cannot produce any effect, unless there is discussion, and unless out of that discussion unanimous approval ensues.

Mr. POULIOT: Queen Victoria is not dead.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. member the leave of the house to withdraw the motion?

(Translation):

Mr. EUGENE MARQUIS (Kamouraska): Mr. Speaker, after this statement by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent), which agrees in every respect with the purpose of the resolution, I beg leave to withdraw it.

(Text):

Mr. MacNICOL: Would the right hon. gentleman enlighten the house as to just how he will proceed to get in touch with the other dominions?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: That will be through the offices of the high commissioners in the several capitals. That is the way in which these things are always done. The high commissioners will be asked to ascertain in London, in Canberra and in the other capitals whether or not those governments feel that the next time there is a conference this should be on the agenda.

Motion withdrawn.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MACKENZIE: Last night the leader of the opposition asked me in regard to the time for resumption of the budget debate. The government gave consideration to the request this morning, and have agreed that Tuesday next should be the time at which the financial critic of the opposition will resume the budget debate. But it is the