

China. People of Chinese origin living in Canada find it almost impossible to sponsor mothers and fathers and close relatives who are living on the mainland of China, because there are no immigration facilities in China. They should be given hope, by way of the establishment of immigration offices in a couple of places on Mainland China, so that those Canadians of Chinese origin or people of Chinese origin who are living in Canada and want their relatives to come over here to live, may have the opportunity of sponsoring those relatives, and of having those matters dealt with in the normal course by an immigration department, according to the immigration policies of Canada.

The other thing I want to mention has to do with the motion before us. Not long ago the Leader of the Opposition said—I gather his comments were as the result of conversation he had had with other members of the Conservative party—that the House might as well adjourn, because there is nothing of any consequence on the order paper.

**Mr. Baldwin:** No, there was nothing of consequence to the economy.

● (1440)

**Mr. Howard:** I did not hear that chitchat.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I will stand up and repeat it if you want.

**Mr. Howard:** The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) had an opportunity to make his comments a while ago. With great blessing, he placed his hands on the motion, wrapped himself around it and said, yes, let's go.

**Mr. Baldwin:** No.

**Mr. Howard:** Is the hon. member prepared to sit next week?

**Mr. Baldwin:** If the government will produce some economic legislation and you are prepared to vote for it.

**Mr. Howard:** The hon. member is quite adept at speaking from a sitting position. I suggest the Conservative party made the declaration we might as well pack up and go home because there is nothing of consequence on the order paper.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, as I am entitled to do when I am being improperly quoted. I said we were prepared to accept the adjournment motion because the government does not have anything on the order paper which indicates a willingness to deal with the economic problems of this country. With that slight correction, the hon. member is correct.

**Mr. Howard:** There is an item on the order paper dealing with foreign investment in this country. That deals with economic matters to a far greater extent than most people realize. If the hon. member for Peace River says that is not of consequence in so far as economic matters are concerned, then I was correct in my opening remark.

**Mr. Baldwin:** If so, it was the first time.

### Adjournment

**Mr. Howard:** That is in keeping with the position the Conservative party has taken on corporate matters. My leader, the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), mentioned the two occasions when legislation was before this House and the Conservative party endorsed, kissed and hugged it. It was in their interest to do so because it benefited the corporate elite of not only this country but the world.

There is another item on the order paper which is of consequence. I would be quite happy to stay and deal with it. I am sure the Conservative party would also, although they did not say so. They did not feel it was worth while mentioning. I am referring to the subject matter of the motion of the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) which deals with the aboriginal rights of native people. Since the debate concluded on April 11, members of the Conservative party have not done a solitary thing to have that debate revived. We tried a few days ago, with no success. If it were revived and came to a vote, I am sure the Conservatives would vote for it because they did so in committee.

Action on the part of the government on the question of aboriginal rights has been rather shabby. Under the Standing Orders, the government has kept that motion covered. It has refused to bring it forward, although there have been many opportunities to do so. The government would sooner introduce a motion to adjourn than call that motion for discussion and debate. It would only take a few moments to have a debate and vote on the motion. Parliament could express itself on the question of aboriginal rights. That is a denial of the responsibility of the federal government.

In Vancouver in 1969, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in a most offensive way called the Indian People "historical might-have-beens". Incidentally, he was speaking to a group of Liberals. He declared the government would have no concern or give any consideration to the concept of aboriginal rights. He rejected them. He clung to that position until October 30 last when there was a transformation in the minds of the Liberals in many areas. As a result of the Liberals being soundly defeated, even though they are still in office, the Prime Minister and others in the cabinet felt it necessary to change their stand on aboriginal rights. They now recognize there is some legal base with regard to the claim of the Indian people. That is not good enough.

The Prime Minister, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien), the government House leader and all others in the cabinet still refuse to bring that motion forward so that parliament can express itself on the question of aboriginal rights. Their attitude is that one man, the Prime Minister, should decide whether this House should vote on the question of aboriginal rights. He has decided we will not have that right.

The Liberal party has a bleak record with regard to aboriginal rights. This dates back to 1910 or 1911 when Sir Wilfred Laurier was Prime Minister. At that time, the government wanted the Indian people to take their case to the Privy Council in London. At that time, the Privy Council in London was the final court of appeal. The order in council that was passed set up the mechanism for the Indian people to take their case to the highest court.