

for the renewable energy problem in Canada. It is hot air, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is full of hot air, his party is full of hot air, and if we could harness that hot air, we would solve the renewable energy problem in Canada. So I will not have an opportunity to talk about tidal power and we will not have an opportunity to talk about the fossil fuel development in Nova Scotia. What we can say is that we support the bill and we hope it will soon come to a vote.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### THE CONSTITUTION

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development (Mr. Chrétien):

That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to consider and report upon the document entitled "Proposed Resolution for a Joint Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada" published by the government on October 2, 1980, and to recommend in their report whether or not such an address, with such amendments as the committee considers necessary, should be presented by both Houses of Parliament to her Majesty the Queen;

That 15 members of the House of Commons to be designated no later than three sitting days after the adoption of this motion be members on the part of the House of the Special Joint Committee;

That the committee have power to appoint from among its members such subcommittees as may be deemed advisable and necessary and to delegate to such subcommittees all or any of their powers except the power to report directly to the House;

That the committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House of Commons;

That the committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee;

That the committee submit their report not later than December 9, 1980;

That the quorum of the committee be 12 members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, so long as both Houses are represented and that the joint chairmen be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof, when six members are present so long as both Houses are represented; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems it to be advisable, members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

### *The Constitution*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** When the debate was interrupted at five o'clock the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) had the floor. The Chair will now recognize the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall).

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** It was a very enlightening experience for me, this October 21, to sit in my place and listen to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), the very distinguished co-chairman of the committee which in the initial stage looked at the events which led up to the—I think, sometimes, innocuous—procedure which is being followed by the present government with respect to our constitution.

I say at the very outset to the minister, through you, sir, that having followed the hearings and events which surrounded the Pepin-Robarts commission, and as one who was somewhat involved in previous measures, movements and studies by government of some significance to this country, together with others, I was not alone—not alone in this chamber, not alone in the other place, not alone in this country—waiting to hear the minister tell us how in hell he was going to swallow what it was that Trudeau was trying to stuff down his throat.

With some respect, I say that the minister did a remarkable job, first of all, of swallowing himself, of telling us what we already know, what we already accept in all corners of this House, which is that the content of what we are talking about is generally acceptable. He told not only those of us who sit in the opposition; he told the people in his own back benches as well. I watched the 12 of them who were gathered around behind him, in line with the cameras, applauding loudly. I also noticed several of his colleagues not bothering to applaud.

I have a lot of respect and a lot of time for the contribution the Minister of Transport has made to this country in a variety of responsibilities. He has a good intellect, one which Canadians should pay attention to, and if the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is a Canadian he, too, should listen to him. I wonder whether he will bother to read the message left by the minister, who is a very distinguished scholar and Canadian, on this particular question. I disagree with the minister when he said, by way of excuse, that it was political prudence that would lead him to support the proposals that are in front of us. I wonder what his colleague, Mr. Robarts, would think of that, Mr. Speaker.

● (2010)

As was the case with other hon. members, I enter this debate with considerable concern, a concern which arises from what I understand to be the implications to the Canadian partnership which are inherent in the proposal that is before us. The subject matter that is raised in this motion to establish a joint committee to discuss the content of a joint address to Her Majesty the Queen concerns not only myself, but I am sure, many other Canadians.

One of the first points I want to make is that this government and its supporting bureaucracy in dealing with this matter are fully aware, as are all of us here, that the vast