

Motions for Papers

to a bill of that type, whereas in this particular case we have a simple resolution before us.

Mr. Knowles: There were two reasons why I read only the second paragraph of citation 284 rather than the whole of it. The first is that the citation is very lengthy, and the other is that the first paragraph had to do with trade agreements, while the second had to do with treaties. What is before us is not a trade agreement, or at least I do not think it is. Maybe it is. What is before us now is a treaty, and it seems to me that while paragraph 1 does not apply, paragraph 2 of the citation does apply. However, as I pointed out, I was not arguing that we should have a bill. I was pressing, though, that we should have in a resolution the same right as is accorded in the case of a bill, namely, the right to express the opinion of parliament, whatever that opinion might be.

Mr. Gelber: It seems to me that the rights of parliament—

Some hon. Members: Five o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the house wish to call it five o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Or do hon. members prefer to hear a ruling?

Mr. Scott: I have some remarks to make on this point. I would prefer that you call it five o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being five o'clock, the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper.

PRIVATE BILL

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING

Bill S-11, to incorporate Canadian Conference of the Brethren in Christ Church—Mr. Greene.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**MODELS FOR CANADIAN FLAG**

The house resumed, from Thursday, May 28, consideration of the motion of Mr. Smallwood:

That an order of the house do issue for the production of all flag designs or models which have been received by the Prime Minister, members of the cabinet or the government, as models for a Canadian flag.

[Mr. Turner.]

Mr. J. B. Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, this motion is one in which I know the hon. member for Battle River-Camrose (Mr. Smallwood) is deeply and intensely interested. I think we ought to explore the implications of the motion rather fully before we take a vote on it. The argument on which he based his motion was that it would be desirable to empanel a committee of the house, made up of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and several members from both sides of the house, that these gentlemen would screen the designs or models submitted, and then take a few of the designs or models submitted to a federal-provincial conference. I do not wish to attempt to negate that particular argument in favour of passing this motion. The truth of the matter is that a great number of designs and models have been submitted. Many of these are obviously the result of a great deal of interest in the question of a new Canadian flag. One has only to inspect some of these designs and models to see what loving care has been lavished on this particular project which is so dear to so many loyal Canadians both in this house and throughout the land. Many of our citizens are keenly concerned with the establishment of a Canadian flag, as the large number of designs shows. The models are elaborate in many instances, and they appear on all kinds of fabric. They appear on paper, on bunting, on nylon, and, as the Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) told us last week, even on plywood.

It is true that a committee of this house has not examined all those designs and models, but no one should think that the keen interest displayed by these patriotic Canadians has not contributed greatly to the development of the discussion on a new flag to the point which that discussion has now reached. These artists have been interested in a new flag, and they have displayed their interest in a most tangible and useful way. I think we are all deeply in their debt.

Last Thursday, when arguing against the adoption of this motion, the Minister of Justice was particularly concerned with one of the two possibilities raised by this motion, namely that copies or reproductions of these designs and models should be made.

Mr. Churchill: Why?

Mr. Stewart: I am asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) why the minister should be concerned