

Constitution

Mr. Waddell: I notice the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Atkey) sitting opposite. I was spared his lectures.

Mr. Atkey: There is a lot of time.

Mr. Waddell: I applaud the initiative of the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville. Had I been permitted, I might have brought some apple pie to the chamber from Jean Pigott's bakery, because the motion is somewhat apple pie-ish, if I can use a term that the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) might applaud.

We on this side of the House cannot argue about items (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the motion. They seem to make sense, and we are in favour of those items. Item (e) is the interesting one. It reads as follows:

transferring agreed national powers to world authorities when this would facilitate world peace.

The hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville asked us to put this in the Canadian constitution. It is interesting that he brings up the matter of transferring powers from the Canadian government to the world government in this new constitution of ours at the same time as we see in the House, day after day, the present government transferring powers to the provinces. The clause itself is too vague, and I am sure the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville would agree if he were lecturing in law again. Already we have transferred out of Canada a lot of effective powers and control. For example, we have transferred control of our energy policy outside of Canada.

In the last three weeks in the House we have dealt with the problems of a west coast oil port and a gas pipeline to the United States. We have dealt with the problems of acid rain, and we are about to deal with some communications problems in radio and television and the Americanization of Canadian airwaves and programs. We were supposed to hear from President Carter today, but unfortunately he had to postpone his visit. We were awaiting his arrival because it was necessary to go to him to solve many of our problems. In effect, Canada has transferred a lot of power and control over domestic matters to international authority, mainly American.

Another area I should like to mention is that we have lost control over the flow of information because we transferred computer and transmission data, television broadcasts and control of television influence, to the United States. Last night I met with some American public broadcasters who were here in Ottawa to get some Canadian programs because they had Canadian listeners. So not only is our broadcasting being Americanized, but American stations are interested in Canadian material. Having made those points about the *de facto* surrender of sovereign Canadian powers to foreign authorities, mainly American, it seems to me that—getting back to world federalism—there is no need for a new constitution. But it is clear that the old one is out of date and that many changes are necessary.

[Mr. MacGuigan.]

● (1650)

One of the major ministers of the government, Senator de Cotret, sits in the Senate. As a newcomer and an outsider to Ottawa, this to me is very obscene. A 35-year old man is made a Senator and given a pension for life. Why could that money not be given to people who are in need, such as pensioners or parents of single families?

We can solve some of the immediate problems mentioned in the resolution, such as promoting international peace, maintaining just and honourable relations between nations, and encouraging the settlement of international dispute, by arbitration, without constitutional amendments. We can do this by many of the strategies which have been proposed over the past few weeks in the House, such as taking control over our own resource revenue, being responsible for our own culture and communication, fashioning an industrial strategy, and taking care of the problems of our own native people. The hon. member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Sargeant), for example, brought up the horrible situation today of a Canadian war veteran who had died in a very sad state of affairs. Perhaps if these policies were implemented, we would not be slipping away from sovereignty.

I wish to make a point with regard to constitutional reform. I know that the hon. member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche) has said that the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville is concerned and has made this matter a cause in his parliamentary career, but where I come from in the west, constitutional reform is not an important issue. This issue seems to be more important to the people here in Ottawa than it does to the people in the west. Before I became a member of Parliament I met the hon. member for Edmonton South in New York. I have always been an admirer of the hon. member and I hope that some day he gets a chance to be our Secretary of State for External Affairs. I say that very sincerely, because I was impressed as an ordinary citizen seeing him in action in New York.

The hon. member talked about the future and spirit of world government, and that is really what this resolution is about. I share that spirit and that hope that there will be a world government. This has always been a platform of our party, and perhaps of other parties as well. It is important to my party that we have a very strong international association. Indeed, the international socialist meeting was held in Vancouver last year, and that spirit was clearly evident there.

I believe that we will see a world government one day. It may not be in my lifetime, or even in the lifetime of our children, but when it arrives I think that it will come, as the hon. member for Edmonton South stated, through the back door in a functional way, with the social agencies having gradually intertwined themselves through the nations of the world.

Martin Luther King once said, "Through our scientific genius we have made of the world a neighbourhood; now through our moral and spiritual genius we must make it a brotherhood". I believe that this resolution serves that end, and I support it for that reason.