

*National Centennial Act*

**Mr. Balcer:** On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, I wish to point out that the hon. member is not speaking from his seat.

**The Chairman:** Order. I would suggest that the hon. member for Longueuil take his seat when the chairman rises.

I should also like to remind the hon. member for Three Rivers that a member can speak from a seat other than his own since we are now in committee.

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** Mr. Chairman, I rose on a point of order.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Am I the one who has the floor?

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** It is the chairman who will rule on the point of order.

**The Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** How could the appointments be revised when they have not yet been made?

**The Chairman:** There is no point of order here and I would ask the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm to continue his speech.

**Mr. Pigeon:** If no appointment has been made yet, I wonder how those people could meet. Perhaps the hon. member should sleep on that.

**Mr. Lamontagne:** In my opinion, the hon. member made a mistake earlier when he spoke of reviewing the appointment of the directors of the centennial commission. One of the main purposes of that resolution is precisely to increase their number because they have not been appointed yet.

**Mr. Pigeon:** I simply referred to the centennial commission.

**Mr. Lamontagne:** There is no centennial commission.

**Mr. Pigeon:** I just ask him to be patient. I have the right to speak since you have recognized me, Mr. Chairman. If the minister wants to make a speech he can do so when I have concluded my remarks.

Mr. Chairman, I should like it to be a celebration of the centennial of confederation and not that of the centennial of a political pack. That is why we are worried, on this side of the house.

I was also pleased to note that other amendments have been made, because without Quebec's contribution to the centennial celebrations, it would have been impossible to take advantage of this bill and to vote the amounts of money in co-operation with the provinces. It is indeed the centennial of confederation and not of Canada, which we are

going to celebrate since Canada existed long before 1867. Mr. Chairman, there is a part of our history before 1867 which is very interesting as it deals with the intensive struggles carried on by the French Canadians at that time to assert their rights. Besides, they were very thankful to England later on and showed their gratitude during the attempt at invasion by the Americans.

Mr. Chairman, that amount of money that the federal government wishes to appropriate, \$1 per capita per province, will require the co-operation of the provinces. I wonder whether it would not be possible to divide these amounts of money in order that some of them might be used for the erection of monuments commemorating the period of our history before 1867, and others for memorials to recall that part of our history after 1867.

Mr. Chairman, when we were in office, the then prime minister and his government made a step forward to help celebrate the centennial of confederation by taking the required steps to have the world fair held in Canada. In my opinion, that was an important action taken by the government of that time. I urge the President of the Privy Council to make every effort so that international conventions will be held here in Canada in 1967.

I had the opportunity to be a member of a Canadian delegation to Belgrade, recently, under the chairmanship of hon. Senator Desureault. He carried on the task initiated by his predecessor. And I congratulate him publicly in this house for the work he has done in Belgrade. He obtained from the members of the interparliamentary union that they hold their important sittings here in Canada, in 1967.

I think that will be another important event that will help to make our country known at the international level.

I also wish to make a suggestion in anticipation of the centennial festivities. I wonder whether it would not be possible, for the centennial year, for the provinces to select students according to their talents, in secondary schools, high schools, colleges and universities to whom a free trip paid entirely by the federal government would be offered, for example on C.N.R. trains, to enable them to visit Canada from coast to coast. In my opinion, that suggestion would allow the elite of the nation, the younger generation, to know their country and this would foster better understanding and national unity.

Mr. Chairman, there has been a certain evolution in this country since 1867, and the trend must continue.

I also remember that at the last Conservative convention, for instance, a resolution was moved to change the constitution so that the word "dominion" be deleted. It was put to a