

United Nations

"That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give consideration to reducing the age of voters under the Canada Elections Act from the present age of 21 years to 18 years", standing in the name of the hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacDonald) as notice of motion numbered 24 on today's order paper, be deemed to have been withdrawn and that the standing committee on privileges and elections be empowered to consider and report upon the provisions thereof.

(2) That the orders of the house relating to the following bills, namely,

(a) Second reading of Bill C-26, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act (age of voters), being order No. 12 standing in the name of the hon. member for Springfield on today's order paper;

(b) Second reading of Bill C-101, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act (18-year old voters and candidates), being order No. 85 standing in the name of the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Basford) on today's order paper;

(c) Second reading of Bill C-172, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act (qualifications of voters and candidates), being order No. 138 standing in the name of the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) on today's order paper;

(d) Resuming debate on the motion for the second reading of Bill C-12, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act (age of voters), being order No. 148 standing in the name of the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid) on today's order paper;

(e) Resuming debate on the motion for the second reading of Bill C-14, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act (age of voters), being order No. 155 standing in the name of the hon. member for Prince on today's order paper, be deemed to have been discharged and that the subject matter of the said bills be referred to the standing committee on privileges and elections.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question? Is it clear, these references having been made, that the committee will meet and deal with them?

Mr. McNulty: That is the understanding.

Motion agreed to.

UNITED NATIONS**STANDARDIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS AND PHRASES**

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should consider the advisability of taking an initiative in the United Nations with a view to the establishment of a committee which would, by consent of participating nations, standardize and internationalize all new scientific and technical words, terms and phrases, and review older terms, scientific and otherwise, that could readily be made into one word for all languages, in order to promote international understanding and facilitate communications between nations.

He said: Mr. Speaker, as there are so many large words in this motion, I should like to repeat it slowly to get a little more of the

impact across. I think this would be proper under the circumstances. My motion is:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should consider the advisability of taking an initiative in the United Nations with a view to the establishment of a committee which would, by consent of participating nations, standardize and internationalize all new scientific and technical words, terms and phrases, and review older terms, scientific and otherwise, that could readily be made into one word for all languages, in order to promote international understanding and facilitate communications between nations.

I propose this initiative as being a proper initiative for Canada which is, in actual fact, a country of many languages and cultures. To realize this one has only to circulate through my riding of Spadina in metropolitan Toronto. I propose this initiative as a step forward simplifying international understanding, not only between nations but between individuals of different nationalities.

I suggest that all new scientific terms be made the same in spelling and pronunciation for all the languages in the world, or at least the world of the United Nations. It has been stated that over 90 per cent of all scientists ever born are living and are working in the world at the present time. It is obvious therefore with this concentration of intellectual ability in the field of discovery that the rate of discovery and change will be steadily and rapidly increasing, with the concurrent and resultant great expansion in our technical vocabularies.

If for each language different new terms are devised and used, the Tower of Babel condition of the world will be intensified, to the discomfiture of all, unless something can be done to prevent this. I propose that something should be done about this problem, and should be done now. This is a problem that could most properly and efficaciously be dealt with under the aegis of the United Nations, and I submit that a permanent committee should be set up at the United Nations to deal with this question. It would check for each new term the word that is most readily written and pronounced in the most languages, and set it up as the standard to be used by all countries. In this way scientific terms would readily become universal in usage.

The co-operation of the scientific societies should be sought, as their support would be necessary and very helpful in this regard. Each society could have a committee of multilingual individuals to review all new terms and to select the one which seems to have