

Take care of your own sector, the federal sector, and you will have quite enough to do to administer your sector well. You are not even able to administer your own sector as you should, and you want to interfere in provincial sectors. Let us start simply by doing something honest and logical, then let us give back to the provinces what is theirs, and you shall see how well federal-provincial conferences will go! They will not be a farce like you said earlier. You may hold up your fist and tell Parliament: "It went like a charm!" Yes, it went like a charm if it is a boxing round that you had in mind, but that is not all that we want. If you want to save Canada, this is not what you should do, and it is a French Canadian who is telling you this! If you want to save Canada, stop acting like that and be careful! Give each province, and not only Quebec, its own rights, and then we can start to write a new constitution and to live in a new Canada.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

Miss MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I call it four o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It being four o'clock p.m. the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions, public bills and private bills.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I believe there is consent to proceed with private member's motion No. 6.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it agreed that all motions prior to motion No. 6 stand at the request of the government?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

EFFECT OF ARTIFICIAL FOOD ADDITIVES ON CHILDREN AND ADULTS

GOVERNMENTAL EXAMINATION RECOMMENDED

The House resumed from Friday, October 29, 1976, consideration of the motion of Mr. Yewchuk:

That in the opinion of this House, the government should take independent action to examine the relationship between artificial food additives and hyperactivity in children as well as between additives and behavioural changes in adults.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Hamilton Mountain.

Artificial Food Additives

Mr. MacFarlane: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I believe I do wish to say a few words.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): I think I should explain to the House that I did not recognize the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) because he moved the motion and has spoken on it previously.

Mr. MacFarlane: I merely want to clarify the situation. Actually I believe there is another speaker on Your Honour's list who comes before me.

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to make a contribution to the debate on this important subject, one about which we are just as concerned as the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) and his hon. friends. I think the only real question in dispute in respect to this motion is whether the type of investigation which is recommended needs to be independent, to quote the words of the hon. member's motion.

● (1550)

In order to make an intelligible contribution to the debate I should like to begin on a more general basis by dealing with the question of chemicals in the food supply. Chemicals in the food supply include the thousands of natural chemical constituents. The most valuable, of course, are proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and essential minerals and vitamins. However, there are many other naturally occurring chemicals; for example, an orange contains acetone, ethanol, methanol, etc. Other chemicals in the food supply include pesticide and veterinary drug residues; environmental contaminants such as PCB's, heavy metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic, etc., natural toxins—bacterial toxins, fungal toxins and natural components of foods such as salanine in potatoes—and last but not least, intentional food additives, flavours and spices.

Now what about the possible relationship between food allergens and hyperactivity? Today the general public seems to be increasingly concerned that foods and food additives may be a major cause of hyperactivity in children. However, there is some evidence that hyperactivity in children may actually be a manifestation of an allergic reaction.

Hypersensitivity reactions, commonly known as allergies, to foods have been described in the medical literature for centuries. Hypersensitivity reactions have been observed in humans following exposure to pollens, dust, certain chemicals and, in a few isolated cases, to some artificial food colours and additives.

Food allergies of various types affect 30 to 40 per cent of the human population. An individual hypersensitive to a food may have symptoms ranging from nasal stuffiness, hives, eczema, rash, migraine headache, nausea, diarrhoea, or even a serious attack of asthma up to anaphylactic shock, or even death.

The range of foods to which people can be allergic is almost limitless. The most common causes of food allergy are milk, grains, especially wheat, eggs, fish, shellfish, fruit, especially strawberries, chocolate and nuts. In addition to natural foods,