

INQUIRY WHETHER MR. RYAN WILL APPEAR BEFORE
COMMITTEE

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): On a supplementary, Madam Speaker. The Right Hon. Prime Minister mentioned my leader in Quebec. I suspect he meant the Quebec premier. Contrary to the Prime Minister of Canada, I respect my Quebec premier, and every other premier, including that of Prince Edward Island.

The Prime Minister spoke of the results of the referendum. He seems to have forgotten that Mr. Ryan no longer stands by his side on the method he wants to use to patriate the constitution. In view of the circumstances, will the Prime Minister at least make sure that the Quebec Liberal party leader is invited before the parliamentary committee to explain his opposition, not to the principle of patriation—no more than I oppose it, for that matter—but to the method the Prime Minister is now using?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, if the committee so wishes, I encourage it strongly to hear the representations of Mr. Ryan. Several premiers have indicated their wish to appear. As the Liberals are few in that group, I should be very happy to see a Liberal go before that committee to show that the Liberal party has very respectable and responsible men in its ranks. It will be up to the committee to decide. As for the method alluded to by the hon. member, it seems to me explanations in that regard have been lengthy enough; specifically, the methods formerly used only produced 53 years of drifting; moreover, Quebecers, no more than other Canadians, seem to be willing to see their political men commit themselves once again for as long a period without solving the problem.

Mr. La Salle: Not by any means!

Mr. Trudeau: Not by any means, Madam Speaker! May I be allowed to recall the words of Péguy who said, speaking of the elders, but applying them as well to political men like the hon. member opposite: "Their hands are clean because they have no hands. When one wants to accomplish something, of course, one has to put one's hand to the plough."

[English]

DEBATE ON BANK ACT COMPARED WITH DEBATE ON
RESOLUTION

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is also addressed to the Prime Minister. The Bank Act has now been before this House for three Parliaments. It has gone through five separate revisions, including the one produced by the committee. It has had full debate. There have been extensive committee hearings both in this Parliament and in the previous Parliaments before the Senate and before the House. Is it the view of the Prime Minister that the banks are entitled to full representation and discussion but not the constitution of this country?

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I missed the beginning of the question because there was an exchange across the aisle of the House. Let me repeat to the hon. member, who seems to have referred to the period of time the Bank Act has been discussed, that we have been discussing for 53 years the question of patriating the constitution.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1500)

Mr. Blenkarn: The Prime Minister will know that we have not been discussing his resolution for 53 years.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blenkarn: Will the Prime Minister, in the interests of full discussion and representation, give to the special committee the same amount of debating time that this Parliament has already given to the Bank Act?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, this matter is so important and the question of timing is so important—

Some hon. Members: Why?

Mr. Hawkes: Why, why, why?

An hon. Member: Easy.

Madam Speaker: Order. Order please.

Mr. Clark: Why was it not important yesterday?

Mr. Trudeau:—that the—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. Member: Sit down, Pierre.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Right Hon. Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Mission-Port Moody.

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COMMUNICATIONS

EARTH STATIONS—CLOSURE OF GOLDEN CABLEVISION

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, that is a very difficult act to follow.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rose: My colleague says, "Thank God for that."