

*Yukon and Territorial Lands Acts*

selves, and at the same time to take advantage of the same benefits and the same services as the other citizens of that area.

When I have concluded my remarks, this bill will be referred to the committee, where it will be discussed. Contrary to what the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) said yesterday, it is not a bill that has been formulated in a jiffy. We had informed the councillors and the people in the Northwest Territories and in the Yukon, as early as November last, of our intentions in that regard. Moreover, we greeted in Ottawa last December all the elected members of the Yukon Council, who came to meet me as well as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). We discussed the whole policy for several hours and made some changes in the executive committee, according to the requirements of the Yukon Council.

The bill was introduced with some delay because the Prime Minister and I wished to have a similar discussion with the elected members of the Northwest Territories Council. We had the opportunity to do so a few weeks ago, during a visit to the Northwest Territories for the Yellowknife Winter Games. It is only afterwards that we proceeded with the drafting of the bill. Had we drafted it before meeting the representatives of the territories, the members of the opposition would have been the first to criticize us for not having consulted enough the elected members of the Council.

Today, the bill will be sent to the committee where every member can comment on it as he wishes. Once the bill has been passed, we can then pave the way for elections in the Northwest Territories which must be held at the end of the term which falls in August, as well for the people in the territories of the Northwest as those in the Yukon.

I thank all the members for participating in this debate. I trust the bill will be studied thoroughly in committee and passed before summer to allow the councils of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon to pass the necessary legislations to reduce, if they so wish, the voting age and bring in other amendments which we have entrusted to the elected representatives of the Councils of the territories instead of incorporating them in legislation here, in Ottawa, as we did formerly. We want to grant more authority to the

[Mr. Chrétien.]

councils of the territories, which objective this bill will certainly achieve.

• (4:50 p.m.)

[English]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, could we agree to call it five o'clock.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS  
TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 40 to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg)—External Affairs—Method of making representations to other nations; the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose)—Labour Relations—West coast towboat strike—Implementation and enforcement of safety regulations; the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—Radio and television programs for senior citizens.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely Notices of Motions.

**Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, on this side we would be willing to suspend discussion of the first four motions on the Order Paper since the members concerned are not ready to proceed. We would suspend discussion and allow them to maintain their place. We would be ready to proceed with the next motion for the production of papers, No. 150 in the name of the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding).

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.