

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, the question is on the motion of the Honourable Senator Haig, seconded by the Honourable Senator Asetline, that the debate be adjourned. Is it your pleasure to concur in the motion?

Hon. Mr. Haig: Carried.

Hon. Mr. Copp: The motion is lost.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Mr. Speaker, I will ask for a division of the house.

Hon. Mr. Campbell: Honourable senators, I should like to be clear on one point—whether or not any other senator is prepared to speak this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I offered to make way for anyone who wished to speak.

Hon. Mr. Campbell: Judging from remarks that were made, I should gather that one or two other senators are ready to proceed.

Hon. Mr. Haig: If anyone wishes to speak this afternoon, I will withdraw my motion, provided the house gives me the right to adjourn the debate later. I say to the acting leader (Hon. Mr. Copp) that he can refuse me the adjournment, if he wishes, but there are always two sides to everything. Quite a number of measures remain to be dealt with this session, and I say quite candidly that if this adjournment is refused me I will exercise my rights to see that the rules are strictly enforced from now until prorogation. The only way I could be beaten on that would be by amending the rules. I have co-operated as well as I could during the last six sessions, and have never asked for any favour until now. I would not have requested this one, but for the fact that I have been very busy on committee work—dealing with the Bankruptcy Bill among other things. Because of carrying a heavy load I have not had enough time to prepare the remarks that I should like to make on the resolution. If the house will allow me to adjourn the debate, we should still have plenty of time to carry the resolution by Wednesday of next week, which will be early enough.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Will the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) withdraw his motion? The senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) wishes to speak.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I will withdraw my motion and move it again later.

Hon. T. A. Crerar: Honourable senators, now that this little storm has vanished into thin air, I rise to make a few observations on the very important resolution that is before the house. Probably no event in our whole history has carried deeper significance for this young nation than the Act we shall

be performing in passing this Address. Let no one for a moment imagine that I am opposed to the motion. If I had any criticism, it would be that of the honourable senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden), as stated in his excellent address yesterday, that the action we are about to take might well have been taken at a considerably earlier period.

At this time I trust it may be interesting to my colleagues to traverse a little history. The first successful effort to achieve responsible government in what is now Canada was made more than one hundred years ago, in the province of Nova Scotia. Anyone who is interested in the historical evolution through which we have reached the point where we are today could well read the speech that Joseph Howe delivered in his own defence, when he was charged by the public authorities with advocating dangerous doctrines in his newspaper.

Hon. Mr. David: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: His acquittal set responsible government on its way in Nova Scotia. There were other notable evolutionary steps, but I shall not refer to any of them in detail. One was the Rebellion of 1837. Now, while that contest had different aspects, it was essentially a contest to enlarge the freedom of self government in what was then known as Upper and Lower Canada.

Hon. Mr. David: No doubt about it.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Another very interesting event occurred in 1859, when Sir Alexander Galt was Finance Minister of what was then Canada. As honourable senators know, after the negotiations subsequent to the Rebellion of 1837 the provinces of Ontario and Quebec were united into the province of Canada. The historical record indicates pretty clearly that the British government of that day was very reluctant to surrender certain rights or privileges to the then Canadian Government, of which, by the way, Sir John A. Macdonald was Prime Minister. This contest, which was over the right of the Canadian Government to levy customs tariffs, took a peculiar form. Following the establishment of free trade in Great Britain, the government of that country sought to impose upon Canada the condition that she must not impede imports to or exports from Canada. Struggling young Canada, on the other hand, needed revenues to carry on the business of a rapidly developing country. As a confirmed believer in the abolition of tariffs, I must confess to a measure of sympathy with the views then expressed by the government of the United Kingdom. However, it was on this issue that the Canadian Government finally established the right to govern its own affairs in the matter of fiscal policy and trade. If anyone