

*National Centennial Act*

we have readily endeavoured to encourage these ethnic groups to adjust themselves, especially in the province of Quebec. I know what I am talking about when I say that there can be found in Montreal ethnic groups from various European countries. I think they felt at home in the province of Quebec. I am sure that other new Canadians found a similar welcome in the other provinces.

Once again, I say that the question of racial culture should not be raised to recall events, unfortunate no doubt, that may have taken place. We must rather look toward the future of our country and prepare the centennial celebrations. I am convinced that with the co-operation of all men of good will and, as the President of the Privy Council said, by increasing the number of directors on the centennial commission, we may expect for 1967 greater celebrations than for a fiftieth anniversary. When a couple celebrates their golden wedding anniversary, people often say that they have little time left to live.

On the occasion of the centenary of confederation, we foresee that our country will set an example to the world and that its legislators will succeed in guaranteeing to their constituents not only freedom and security but also countless opportunities.

In this country which has not only vast natural resources but a variety of cultures, we will succeed in establishing a Canadian spirit of which we will all be proud.

[Text]

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, I have already spoken in this debate so my remarks at this point will be very brief. In fact, my purpose in rising is to move a one word amendment to the resolution now before us. The amendment I am seeking is in order under the provisions of the appropriate citation which provides that money resolutions can be amended if the amendment comes within the framework of the resolution. I believe also that the amendment meets the points that have been made by the President of the Privy Council and at the same time it will put into the short title a word which I think all of us would like to have there.

I may say before I move the amendment that I thought it was unfortunate that the President of the Privy Council did not make yesterday the explanation that he made today. Some of the debate we have had might have been unnecessary. I am sure he will agree with me that it would be desirable in the short title to recognize that it is the Canadian confederation we will be celebrating when we observe our centennial in 1967. So, Mr. Chairman, since this has been gone over and it does not need to be spelled out at greater length, I

[Mr. Perron.]

simply rise to offer this amendment. Amendments in committee do not require a seconder but my good friend and colleague, the hon. member for New Westminster, would like to be associated with this amendment. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for New Westminster:

That the resolution be amended by inserting therein, immediately after the words "the Centennial of", the word "Canadian".

Hon. members will see that this will make the short title read, "the Centennial of Canadian Confederation Act". I ask the President of the Privy Council to recognize the fact that this does not deny the existence of a Canada and of Canadians prior to 1867, but I ask us all to recognize that confederation as we know it did take place on July 1, 1867. It was on that date that the Canadian confederation became a reality. Let us be proud of it and let us say in the short title of the act that what we are celebrating is the centennial of Canadian confederation.

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Mr. Chairman, we certainly have no objection to the amendment and we will see to it that the bill will reflect the amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. Hamilton:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a few words on the resolution—

**Mr. Knowles:** As amended.

**Mr. Hamilton:** As amended—in reply really to the remarks of the President of the Privy Council. First of all, I do not think that in meeting the charges of the Leader of the Opposition he was impressive in reading out that list, because as we listened to the list we wondered whether the percentage figure given by the Leader of the Opposition was too conservative. I am not quarrelling about that so much as the fact that the President of the Privy Council in his remarks made it very clear that the act was really being amended for one reason only, because there was an ultimatum served by Premier Lesage of Quebec.

On this particular subject of the ultimatum as to the title I do not think it is a serious enough matter on which to start a quarrel, but in the celebration of our birthday I think it is a great pity that the word "ultimatum" has to be used. Surely in this day and age of political thinking we have enough experience and judgment that we can resolve all these matters without the use of the word "ultimatum". As the hon. member spoke I wondered whether this ultimatum included the world fair in Montreal. If the house decides not to play in this little game of quibbling about the title, does that mean that Quebec