

Right Hon. John G. Diefenbaker

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS— MOTIONS

[English]

Mr. Stackhouse: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Earlier in this session I introduced a Bill, now on the Order Paper as No. 59. I now seek the indulgence of the House to switch that with a motion of which I gave notice two weeks ago. The motion is No. 173. I would greatly appreciate the indulgence of the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is there unanimous consent that the House proceed to Item No. 37?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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● (1700)

RIGHT HON. JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER

SUGGESTED ERECTION OF STATUE ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of honoring the memory of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker by commissioning a statue of him to be placed on Parliament Hill.

She said: Mr. Speaker, each day in the House of Commons, Members of Parliament address issues which affect the administration of the Government of Canada. The future course of Canada is the business of this Chamber as elected representatives from all three Parties work together to build a better nation. However, it may be necessary from time to time to pause in our deliberations in order to look back and take action on an issue which may not be at the top of our agenda today but which nevertheless has great significance for Canada.

I rise this day to speak on such an issue and in so doing to attempt to correct a certain historical oversight which to some degree does not do justice to the memory of a man who was a giant in his time, a western Canadian with a truly national vision and the thirteenth Prime Minister of Canada, the late Right Hon. John George Diefenbaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Browes: Mr. Speaker, it has been the custom of the Parliament of Canada to commission statues of great Canadi-

an leader and to place the monuments on the grounds of Parliament Hill. As my colleagues here may be aware, no less than 11 monuments are located on Parliament Hill at present. These monuments are dedicated to the memory of great Canadians as well as one dedicated to our reigning monarch at the time of Confederation, Queen Victoria.

Other persons so honoured include Sir Louis Lafontaine and Robert Baldwin who as joint Premiers of United Canada formed the great Ministry of 1848 to 1851 which successfully established into practice the principle of responsible government in Canada. George Brown, publisher and founder of a national newspaper in Canada who was Reform leader in Upper Canada during the 1850s is also so honoured. He went on to play a leading role at the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences on Confederation.

Also honoured is Sir Georges Cartier who played a conspicuous role in the movement toward Confederation. He was joint premier in the Macdonald-Cartier administration of 1858-1862 and conducted the key negotiations by which French Canada accepted the federation proposals. As well, we have Sir John A. Macdonald the first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada who worked to complete political unification and economic integration with the remaining territories of British North America during his many years in office.

There are others so honoured including Thomas D'Arcy McGee, a noted poet, journalist, politician and father of Confederation who unfortunately was assassinated at his home on Sparks Street in 1868. As well, Alexander Mackenzie is included. He was Prime Minister from 1873 to 1878 and formed the first Liberal administration of the Dominion of Canada. Also honoured is Sir Wilfrid Laurier, our distinguished Prime Minister from 1896 to 1911, who gave the new Dominion a respected and independent voice in the British Empire. He worked to transcend differences in race and religion as Canada welcomed waves of immigrants to its shores.

Included as well is Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister from 1911 to 1920. He was a devoted and courageous wartime leader who led Canadians to accept their new-found international responsibilities. Through his efforts, Canadian nationalism flourished as our nation sat as an independent power at peace talks and secured its rightful place in the League of Nations. Finally, Mackenzie King is also honoured. He was Canada's longest serving Prime Minister and led our nation through six long years of the Second World War. In so doing, he lay the foundation for Canada's post-war prosperity.

These distinguished founders and leaders of our nation are justly honoured with a permanent place on the grounds of Parliament Hill, the bronze image of each standing as eloquent testimony to a lifetime of achievement and dedication to Canada. No Canadian would deny these fine Canadians such an honour. Recognition of their achievement transcends partisan considerations. They are quite simply among the best leaders our nation has produced. I submit that to this history should be added the name of a certain contemporary leader of Canada, a man with vision equal to that of those 10 aforemen-