

to have a specific day every year for Sir John A. Macdonald Day, this gives us an opportunity through Heritage Day to honour many people and things in Canadian history. I understand that in one year Heritage Day will honour the Canadian flag, which is something that should be close to the hearts of all Canadians.

This desire that many of us have to honour things Canadian calls to mind another matter which is coming before this House very soon concerning the oath of allegiance to Canada. This matter has come up in the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts a number of times concerning matters of citizenship. We have asked for an oath of allegiance that would include our great country in the words, and that other things we hold dear be included as well. This has not been forthcoming, however. As a matter of fact the departmental officials concerned with this matter in the last seven years have chosen to ignore the wishes of many of us in this House, and the wishes of the committee, which specifically asked for an oath that would do more for Canadians and Canada.

Of course, we will be able to discuss this again in committee but I think it well to bring to the attention of hon. members that, unless we are on top of it, it will go through again in exactly the same form as before. The oath of allegiance makes absolutely no mention of our country, our flag, our constitution, the Bill of Rights, or anything that is strictly Canadian. I think it is high time we did something about that, Mr. Speaker.

In conclusion I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Hillsborough. I would suggest that his offer to withdraw his bill in favour of the Heritage Day bill should be accepted by the House before we call it six o'clock.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in 30 seconds, and I mean every word of it, I congratulate the hon. member for having brought in this bill. Certainly he did not get it in the way he put it in, but I commend him for accepting the compromise so that in some way we will be honouring Sir John A. Macdonald and, not just by the 12 minutes we are giving him now.

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I will not be speaking right through until six o'clock. I was asked if I would care to participate in this debate when we expected it to last considerably longer. I accepted with alacrity for two reasons, one being that Sir John A. Macdonald was born on January 11, 1815, and I was born on January 11, some time later. We share a common birthday, but I must say to the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) that January 11 is a pretty poor day to have a birthday. It comes after Christmas when the gifts are all gone, it is one of the coldest days of the year, and this has kept us from celebrating Sir John A.'s birthday in fitting style.

During one low period in his life when he was defeated in Kingston, Ontario, thus blotting what was an otherwise unblemished escutcheon in that era, he came to the constituency which I represent, and in 1878 won a landslide victory with a majority of 358 votes. It is probably the only riding he represented where you can celebrate his birthday in decent weather.

Members' Salaries

I had a long speech prepared, Mr. Speaker, but the exigencies of time have caught up with me. I should like to commend the hon. member for Hillsborough, given the date he was given for Sir John A.'s birthday, for doing the best he could with it, and now bowing to reason. I am pleased that Sir John A.'s birthday will be remembered as part of Heritage Day.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough) moved:

That the bill be not now read a second time but that the subject matter thereof be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The abbreviated hour appointed for consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT, THE SALARIES ACT AND THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-44, to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Salaries Act and the Parliamentary Secretaries Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates and as reprinted in accordance with Mr. Speaker's decision of Wednesday, April 23, 1975.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. The House is considering motion No. 4.

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Madam Speaker, let me make it clear at the outset that I honestly and sincerely felt ever since the introduction of Bill C-44 that I could not support it in any form. I have taken time to study the bill and the amendments as objectively as possible. I am sure all members of the House are fully aware of the economic conditions we face in this country. If members are not aware, it is darned well time they found out about unemployment and how it is affecting some parts of the country, particularly the region from which I come.

Day by day the evidence becomes clearer. Last fall the government indicated that among its goals, was, *inter alia*, that of government restraint in spending. I suggest strongly that this restraint should apply to members of parliament as well as to members of the public generally. Members of parliament should set an example by restraint. The