

*The Constitution*

alism. In view of that, I am happy to say that I can support this resolution.

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. 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 Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall)—Marine Transport—Withdrawal of Dart Containerline service from Halifax—Role of President of Canadian National Railways; the hon. member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer)—The Environment—Garrison diversion project—Suggested topic for discussion between Prime Minister and U.S. President Reagan; the hon. member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly)—Fisheries—Effect of tanker traffic on west coast fishery.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### THE CONSTITUTION

RESOLUTION RESPECTING CONSTITUTION ACT, 1981

The House resumed debate on the motion of Mr. Chrétien, seconded by Mr. Roberts, for an Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada.

And on the amendment of Mr. Epp, seconded by Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton)—That the motion be amended in Schedule B of the proposed resolution by deleting Clause 46, and by making all necessary changes to the Schedule consequential thereto.

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak in this debate, I must first congratulate the joint committee for the amount of work it did in bringing us this far in considering the resolution. I wish particularly to compliment the hon. member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (Mr. Joyal) for doing an extraordinarily good job as co-chairman. He certainly became a television star, among other things, but more impressive to me was the calm and cool way in which he presided over what could have been a very fractious committee.

The other bouquet I want to hand out is to the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp), who presented our side of the case with such clarity and with a steady sense of what was proper to present to such a committee and what was not. He gave a very

stirring speech in the House a couple of weeks ago when he introduced the amendment we are now discussing.

I suppose every debate in the House has its high points and its low points. To date, I would suggest that the low point was a speech given by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan) on March 2. Although he was given an opportunity to participate in one of the most important debates of this generation, he thought only of the opportunity to deliver a speech filled with self-serving remarks about his own public service, coupled with cheap shots directed at the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), who was not present in the House at the time.

It is with great concern that I rise today to add my voice to the voices of other members opposing the proposed amendments to the Constitution. Like my colleagues, I want the Constitution to be patriated. Unlike members opposite, I want it patriated without change except for the addition of an amending formula. The changes can be made in Canada by the people the changes will affect.

This Constitution affects the very survival of Canada, the identity and values of Canadians. It determines the economic welfare of the country. It affects all problems in Canada because it is a document which establishes the power distribution between our two levels of government and it sets the rules of all manner of business. It is something so important and so essential to our nation, I wonder how the government can pursue the course it has chosen when the effect of what it is doing will be felt by every citizen of Canada and future citizen of Canada. How can the government move so quickly and unadvisedly?

May I call it five o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. It now being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, public bills, private bills and notices of motion.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

Items Nos. 17, 18, 22, 25, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37 allowed to stand by unanimous consent.

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● (1700)

### CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING POLLING HOURS

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra)** moved that Bill C-237, to amend the Canada Elections Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.