

Government Orders

like to advise hon. members who are waiting for the adjournment proceedings that under Standing Order 38(7) they are today cancelled.

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I believe all members in this House received a document in their offices yesterday or a few days ago called "Some Practical Suggestions for Canada: Report of the Group of 22". I compliment this group because rather than sit around and complain as many do, it got together and did something.

It put this report together with 28 recommendations of what should be incorporated in the Canadian Constitution. I do not agree with all of them, but as I say, I compliment it for doing something positive.

I would like to ask the hon. member whether he agrees with recommendation 14 which reads: "We recommend that full and complete recognition of the four economic freedoms, the freedom of movement, labour, capital, goods and services be stipulated in the Constitution so that the Canadian economic union can be fully established and citizens can have recourse to the courts to ensure that these provisions are met. We suggest that consideration be given as well to the creation of an administrative tribunal which would oversee the practical realization of these essential economic principles and would assist in the resolution of the problems."

Coming from the constituency which he represents, does he see that this will be a positive thing into the Constitution or a negative thing, this building in the free movement of labour, capital, goods and services?

Mr. Gardiner: Mr. Speaker, let me respond to that question first of all with just a brief comment on the member's preamble to his question.

That was on the proposal from this group as it is called, in which there are some learned people who are presenting their views of Canada and suggestions on how we can take a look at the country.

The member mentioned that in his preamble with a suggestion. These people are making their proposals and suggestions in a positive way, or adding to the debate.

Let me make one comment about what I hope is one small way that I am helping my constituents in this debate. During the discussions on Meech Lake, it was very interesting to ask how many people had actually read Meech Lake. In a room in which everybody in my

riding would have got up, howled and screamed about Meech Lake, not one may have read it.

As a practical solution or attempt at that, I have made an effort to my constituents to ensure that those people who are interested in the constitutional debate are sent a package once a month of pro and con debates. We will be including this Group of 22 submission in that package for my constituents. We have about 300 people in my riding now who have written to me. I invite anyone else in the country who is interested to write. I would be more than pleased to put them on that list so that they can make an informed decision about the Constitution.

A "more informed decision" means we will have a better vision of the country. Specifically, to his question in terms of some of the four components in the Constitution, I would certainly be prepared to look at them. On first hand, I do not see any reason necessary to reject them. I suppose some debate would be with the provinces which have their own challenge in terms of attempting to break down the barriers they have between their jurisdictions.

We have had some cases in which that has been almost ridiculous. On first glance, I would not have a problem with that. I suppose we would have a better Canadian economy if we had better coast to coast to coast trade than we do now.

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I know the hour is late and I do want to thank all the members of this House for the latitude given in extending the hours of the debate so that remaining speakers, my colleague and I, have an opportunity to address this really important issue.

Canada is a country which faces troubled and difficult times. It is a nation which today is at a crossroads. It is a nation with an uncertain future. It is easy to point fingers at who or what is to blame for taking us to this critical point. It is easy to blame this government. It is easy to blame this Prime Minister. I think we have to recognize that in some measure we are all to blame. That is precisely why we all must be part of the solution.

Canadians are a people who are rather uninformed about their country. That is possibly due to the fact that we are constantly submerged and inundated in a wave of culture from our U.S. neighbour. We do not have a healthy sense of national identity. We are a vast land, a land with a very sparse and a very diverse population. We tend to view ourselves from two distinctly separate