

general substance of my motion, though of course, he dashed my hopes that the Bill of Rights would be accepted by the government for submission to the forthcoming Dominion-Provincial Conference. He said that the subject was not raised in the letter of invitation written by the Prime Minister to the premiers of the various provinces. If that were the sole objection, I think I would reply to him, "Why not write another letter? The postal rates are not excessive?" But the honourable leader gave other and more substantial reasons. I think I can summarize them in a sentence. He told us that if, without attempting anything further, the Dominion-Provincial Conference accomplished what it originally set out to do, we might congratulate ourselves on the progress it had made. Of course there is great force in that argument. The honourable member from Shelburne also stated that it was impossible to organize a Senate committee for the due consideration of the measure before the close of this session. That was obvious when he spoke, and of course it hardly needs mention now. But I want to quote a line or two from the honourable gentleman's statement:

Assuming that the remission of the matter to a committee is not accompanied with a specific request that it be referred by the government to the forthcoming conference, I would have no objection to this course—

That is, referring it to a committee.

—if it meets with the approval of the Senate.

In view of circumstances as they actually exist—with the encouragement which has been extended by the leader and others to the consideration of these broad general principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the leader's lack of any objection to the reference of the matter to a Senate committee—I now move to withdraw this motion; but I do so on the distinct understanding that I will remove it, no doubt in some other form, to suit the circumstances.

Hon. Mr. DuTremblay: I should like to say a few words on this motion before the honourable senator withdraws it.

The Hon. the Speaker: I must inform the honourable senator from Repentigny (Hon. Mr. DuTremblay) that the mover of the resolution, in speaking at this time, is closing the debate.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I should have liked very much to have heard what the honourable senator has in his mind, but of course I cannot set aside the rules. I recall to honourable senators that this debate has been kept open until today by constant adjournment from the 3rd of November, and I have urged everyone to whom I spoke about it to enter

the debate, irrespective of the position he might take with regard to the subject.

I was saying that two months from now, or thereabouts, when we re-assemble, I shall re-initiate this measure, and shall ask that it be referred to a committee for consideration, the hearing of evidence and the making of a report; and I feel confident that I shall not be disappointed by the Senate.

Although the present resolution has not achieved its immediate objective, I am not at all discouraged. On the contrary honourable senators, I am well pleased with the consideration which the subject of my motion has received, both in this house and outside it, and I look forward to still greater achievements in the session of parliament which will assemble after the new year.

May I close this most inspiring debate with a word as to the high purpose which we serve when we seek to preserve and extend the rights and freedom of our fellow men. The philosophy of freedom influences the minds and the actions of every individual; it also has a marvellous effect upon the nation of which everyone of those individuals forms a part. Mankind is a delicate plant, which grows and develops, blossoms and bears fruit in freedom, but which in bondage withers and dies. So do races, so do nations. Shakespeare was the product of a free and vigorous Elizabethan England; Machiavelli, on the other hand, was the product of tyrannical Florence. All the great works of art, literature, religion and statesmanship have been conceived and carried out in freedom. Through all ages men have loved freedom and have fought and died in its cause. It has not been given to any of us here to make the supreme sacrifice for freedom which has been offered by so many of our relatives, our associates and our friends; but it is given to us to occupy positions of opportunity, of influence and importance in which we may render signal service to the cause in which they fell, and thus take our places beside the great men of the past, whom we honour because they worked and struggled and fought for freedom. We have little reverence for the conquerors who crushed the bodies and lives of men. A great opportunity is before us to apply our minds to this general proposal, and, perhaps, to be remembered by future generations for the contribution that we in this Senate will have made to this great cause.

The motion was withdrawn.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

On the motion to adjourn:

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, in moving the adjournment