

The Constitution

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): In so far as the Foreign Investment Review Agency is concerned:

1. BBC Brown, Boveri & Company, Limited—to establish a joint-venture company to acquire control of Brown Boveri Howden Inc.

—yes

—yes;

- (a) The investment was allowed on May 8, 1980, and the annual review of undertakings will commence on or about May 8, 1981.

(b) N/A.

2. (a) N/A

(b) N/A.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS

The House resumed from Thursday, October 16, consideration of the motion of the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development (Mr. Chrétien):

That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to consider and report upon the document entitled "Proposed Resolution for a Joint Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada" published by the government on October 2, 1980, and to recommend in their report whether or not such an address, with such amendments as the committee considers necessary, should be presented by both Houses of Parliament to Her Majesty the Queen;

That 15 members of the House of Commons to be designated no later than three sitting days after the adoption of this motion be members on the part of this House of the Special Joint Committee;

That the committee have power to appoint from among its members such subcommittees as may be deemed advisable and necessary and to delegate to such subcommittees all or any of their powers except the power to report directly to the House;

That the committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House of Commons;

That the committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee;

That the committee submit their report not later than December 9, 1980;

That the quorum of the committee be 12 members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, so long as both Houses are represented and that the joint chairmen be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and

authorize the printing thereof, when six members are present so long as both Houses are represented; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems it to be advisable, members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, last night before ten o'clock I had the opportunity to start my comments. I had five minutes then, and I believe I will have six minutes now. I do not know if there will be other questions of privilege, but I would hate to divide my allotted 40 minutes into five-minute segments. So that my allotted time is not divided into three segments, I wonder if the Chair would allow me to call it one o'clock; then my time would be divided into only two segments.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it agreed that we call it one o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

● (1400)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Dick: This will be my third effort to get started on this and I hope I will be able to complete my remarks in the 35 minutes I have remaining. Last night I made a few opening remarks which I concluded at page 3764 of *Hansard*, and I will pick up from where I left off last night.

I said I felt there was a consensus in Canada; in fact, I thought there was unanimity in Canada among all levels of government and all parties, whether provincial or federal, that the constitution be patriated to Canada. I also said that in the "Shorter Oxford Dictionary" definition of "consensus", where it refers to a government, it means a majority view. I think we do have a majority view, or a consensus, in Canada on the amending formula. I felt that the consensus probably revolved around the Vancouver amending formula rather than the Victoria amending formula.

I feel one thing which must be spelt out is that a consensus is most important in dealing with the fundamental law of our country, and the constitution is the fundamental law of our country. As much agreement as possible is necessary for a law to have the maximum respect. If law is not respected, then it will become ridiculed and, if it becomes ridiculed, faith in the law will be diminished and we head toward plain disrespect for the law. This is illustrated today by the example of the law in Ontario where people under the age of 16 are not allowed to use vending machines—that law is disrespected. The law dealing with the smoking of marijuana is a disrespected law in its present form. That, of course, can lead almost to anarchy,