Mr. Trudeau: I am afraid I may not have enough time to answer many of these questions but I should like to deal with this one. As I understood him, the hon. member for Greenwood quoted Mr. Claude Ryan, and I should like to know whether the special status which the hon. member described and which his party has asked this house to adopt is, in content, the one that Mr. Claude Ryan has spelled out at some length.

Mr. Brewin: I would not say it was exactly what I have read from Claude Ryan's article in the issue of *Le Devoir* from which I have quoted. We do not agree with all of it holus-bolus. On the other hand, I thought it stated a perfectly reasonable negotiating position which I would be glad to discuss with Mr. Ryan, the minister or any other Canadian.

Mr. Trudeau: Is it the position of your party?

Mr. Brewin: It is not the position of my party. Mr. Ryan speaks for himself. We make our own statements. There is much that Mr. Ryan said with which I would agree, and there are certainly some things he said with which I would not agree.

An hon. Member: What about what Mr. Cliche said?

Mr. Brewin: I certainly agree with Mr. Cliche. I have no trouble at all in agreeing with Mr. Cliche.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member aware that Mr. Cliche said that Mr. Levesque's thesis was defensible, and is the hon. member ready to defend it?

Mr. Brewin: I dare say he said that. I think Mr. Levesque's thesis is worthy of discussion. It was discussed by the Quebec Liberal Association. They did not agree with it. We have the right to agree or disagree with Mr. Levesque, who is a very able Canadian, and I have no doubt that Mr. Levesque can defend his thesis perfectly acceptably. I do not happen to agree with him. But I agree with Mr. Cliche that Mr. Levesque's thesis is certainly defensible and very well put, although I have to disagree with him.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Choquette: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman.

● (9:30 p.m.)

[*English*]

He has said that we should make Quebec independent as soon as possible.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Chairman, I shall try to conclude my remarks, I hope without further interruptions.

Mr. Choquette: Those who support the N.D.P. are almost separatists, and that is something this house should know. Those who support that party in the province of Quebec are, I repeat, almost separatists.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. There has been no question of privilege raised by the hon. member.

Mr. Brewin: There has been no question of privilege and I should like to assure the hon. member that we will soon have some members in this party from the province of Quebec to explain their point of view here in this house. I am sorry they are not here at this time to do so.

Mr. Choquette: There are many republicans in Quebec who are not separatists.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Chairman, again I am going to try to make the rest of my speech, if possible, without further interruptions.

Mr. Woolliams: Andy, you have irritated them tonight.

Mr. Brewin: I have said a few things that have disturbed hon. members opposite and I am delighted to have done so, but let me now get back to the plea I was making. This parliament should have a chance through committee procedure to make a thorough examination of these constitutional issues.

What have we heard so far? We have heard the Prime Minister inviting the premiers of the provinces to come to a conference to be held in January or February to discuss a constitutional bill of rights. We in this house are not told what this bill of rights is to be, or what it might contain. We do not know what the discussions are going to be about. I suggest that with the crisis facing this country and with the Prime Minister calling on all of us to get together as in time of war, the time has come to use the procedures of this parliament to invoke a serious discussion and dialogue in respect of these constitutional issues.

At this point I should like to read into the record a letter I wrote to the Prime Minister on this subject. This was a public letter and I am sure he would not object to my reading it