

House of Commons Act

This means that in this country thousands of people who perhaps would otherwise be skiing are not because the cost is prohibitive. My suggestion therefore is that the federal government can do something at a very reasonable cost to change this situation. It should do for the wintertime activities in our national parks what, for example, the provincial government of Ontario has done for summertime activities in its parks. It should begin to make capital investments—and I stress they would be relatively slight in amounts—necessary to instal skiing tows and to do the rudimentary kind of work that would be necessary in the appropriate terrain to make ski runs. It should then open these parks to skiers in the winter months at the most nominal charge of perhaps \$2 for a family for a season. I suggest that would make this very enjoyable and very healthy outdoor activity available not only to the rich but to Canadians with average and below average incomes.

I stress that this action by the federal government would involve very little in the way of capital expenditure. At least some ministers of the government have spoken about the desirability of doing something about sports in this country, so I believe the government would be interested in this kind of action. It seems to me to be a desirable kind of sport activity because skiing is not a spectator sport but involves participation in the activity itself rather than the passive observation of others playing games of different sorts.

Therefore, I would like the minister, or his Parliamentary Secretary perhaps, to respond to my suggestion at the close of the debate and, if the government is opposed to the idea, to tell us why that is the case. I urge that the most serious consideration be given to my proposal because it is one that would involve the expenditure of small amounts of money and would provide very significant human benefits.

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

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE
DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 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 Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg)—Agriculture—Investigation of removal of serial plates from imported tractors; the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte)—Sports—Grant to the Quebec Amateur Hockey Association; the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell)—National Defence—Saint John, New Brunswick—Lack of infantry in militia.

It 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 MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions and the hon. members who have sponsored the first three bills on the Order Paper have asked to allow them to stand. I believe the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) would be ready to proceed with Bill C-32, an act to amend the House of Commons Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT

MEASURE TO ABOLISH RULE OF PRIVY COUNCIL OVER INTERNAL ECONOMY OF THE COMMONS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena) moved that Bill C-32, to amend the House of Commons Act (Internal Economy Autonomy) be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I have been given some indication that there is a good prospect that this bill will still be under debate at six o'clock. In consequence, any hopes that I had for the generosity of the House toward private members business has just been dashed to the ground. This is a subject matter that involves the office of Speaker, and that is one subject which we should all approach with great respect and temerity because we do not want to be involved in discussions or debates in the House that raise in question the function of Mr. Speaker or the carrying out of Mr. Speaker's duties. I approach the introduction of this bill with admiration and respect for the office of the Speaker.