

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order. Pursuant to Standing Order 40, it is my duty to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Saint John Lancaster (Mr. Bell)—Energy—Consideration of construction of pipeline from Saint John to Montreal; the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland)—National Defence—Position of armed forces members attached to NORAD following special alert ordered by President Nixon on October 25; the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon)—Pension—Request for extension of program to increase annuities to ex-servicemen.

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[English]

### ELECTION EXPENSES

#### PROVISION OF PAYMENTS TO CANDIDATES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF PARTIES FOR CERTAIN BROADCASTING TIME

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-203, to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** As agreed to previously, we will now proceed to amendments Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6. Motions Nos. 3 and 4 stand in the name of the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight), Motion No. 5 stands in the name of the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), Motion No. 6 stands in the name of the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters), and they read as follows:

No. 3.

That Bill C-203, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be amended by adding the following definition immediately following the definition of "election expenses" in clause 2:

● (1730)

"electoral district agent" in relation to a registered party, means a person whose name is recorded in the registry of agents of registered parties maintained by the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to subsection 13.1(1) and who is designated as such by the chief agent of the party.

No. 4.

That Bill C-203, to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be amended by adding, at the end of the definition of "registered agent" in Clause 2, the following:

"and an electoral district agent".

No. 5.

That Bill C-203, to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be amended by changing Sub-sections 13.1(2) of Sub-clause 4(1) to paragraph 13.1(a) and by adding the following as paragraph 13.1(2)(b):

### Election Expenses

(b) An association or organization of the members of a registered party within an electoral district may choose a person or persons to be electoral district agents for the purposes of that registered party in that electoral district and may so notify the registered party who may forthwith notify the Chief Electoral Officer setting out the name and address of such persons and such information shall be recorded by the Chief Electoral Officer in the registry referred to in subsection (1).

No. 6.

That Bill C-203, to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, be amended by adding, immediately following Section 13.1(3) of Sub-clause 4(1) the following:

"(4) Forthwith after his appointment the chief agent of each registered party shall notify the Chief Electoral Officer of the name and address of any electoral district agents of the party and such information shall be recorded by the Chief Electoral Officer in the registry referred to in Sub-section (1).

(5) Where

(a) any person whose name is recorded in the registry referred to in Sub-section (1) ceases to be an electoral district agent of the registered party in relation to which his name is recorded, or

(b) any additional electoral district agent or agents of the registered party are appointed, the chief agent of the registered party shall notify the Chief Electoral Officer by notice in writing and, on receipt of any such notice, the Chief Electoral Officer shall vary the register accordingly."

and by re-numbering the remaining Sub-sections accordingly.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motions? I remind all hon. members that all the motions I called are to be debated together, that is Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6. The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight).

**Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, the whip of the New Democratic Party has had honourable mention in the House already, and I appreciate that, from the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Clark). I wish to begin my remarks by saying that the hon. member may be the whip, but he is also the member for Assiniboia. As such he represents the people in that constituency, so is intent upon expressing his view of the election expenses bill which is going to affect the people in that constituency as well as the general taxpayers across the Dominion of Canada.

I moved a number of amendments, three in particular, related to this bill, which I believe would improve this legislation when it is put on the statute books. One of my chief concerns is that in the area of election expenses the bill designates a chief agent for the party to handle the amounts of money, the expenditures by that party. What concerns me is the role of the individual constituency in the collection of funds for the use of that particular party. What I am attempting to do in the two amendments now before the House is to establish the principle, in the best way I could, of there being an official collecting agent within the constituency who is on record with the Chief Electoral Officer. I believe if the national headquarters of any political party is to be responsible for an agent to look after the funds coming to that party from contributions, it is obligatory that the local constituency organizations have the right, clearly spelled out, of an agent as well who can be listed with the Chief Electoral Officer. That is the purpose of the two amendments I have placed before this House.