

Committee on Constitution of Canada

established in Canada. American investments accounted for about 85 per cent while the United Kingdom and continental Europe were responsible for the balance.

The Throne speech states that it is time, in 1970, to bring about changes. We of the Ralliement créditiste say that 1970 is the best time ever to change the financial system which is strangling us, which imposes upon Canadians the scarcity of consumer goods, which yields to foreign financial interests the control of our natural resources, of our production and, I dare say it, of all our institutions, including our political institutions, that is the governments in power.

A change is needed. There must be a change, as the Quebec Liberals used to say in 1960, because tomorrow it will be too late.

To conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, this is how I consider the changes needed so that Canadians may truly enjoy their production, control it and fully profit by our natural resources.

Here is the first question which must be asked. Why a financial system? What part must it play?

The answer is simple enough: A financial system is supposed to finance firstly the production of goods, in order to meet needs and secondly, the distribution of those goods, according to needs.

A financial system which finances the production of goods and also succeeds in distributing them is efficient. If it does not play that part, it is inefficient and even harmful.

Well, Mr. Speaker, at the present time there are goods required by the population which we fail to produce because under our financial system the capital is diverted from its primary purpose. Certain products lie on the shelves, some are even destroyed, although a number of needs remain unsatisfied.

We must therefore conclude that the present financial system does not fulfill its purpose which should be to finance the production and distribution of goods. And what we are asking the government and the Prime Minister to do is to find a solution to financial problems.

Then we will no longer witness incidents such as the one which has just taken place in Montreal. Being deprived of the security and the freedom to which they are entitled, some people rebel against the established society. Those who cannot adapt themselves to a society, Mr. Speaker, try to destroy it.

So, let us establish in our country a social and economic context in which all Canadians will find a place for themselves and feel that their country belongs to them, and which could also serve as a model for all the world to follow.

[English]

On motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale), the debate was adjourned.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received

[Mr. Caouette.]

from the Senate requesting this House to unite with the Senate in the appointment of a Special Joint Committee to examine and report upon proposals, made public, on a number of subjects related to the Constitution of Canada and also to select members of this House to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

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CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—TERMS OF REFERENCE

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution submitted its reports on its activities, indicating that it would like to continue those activities in the new session and, in particular, that certain arrangements had been made to visit eastern Canada for the purpose of carrying on discussions. I wonder if the House would be agreeable to reconstituting the Special Joint Committee now in so far as this House is concerned by conferring on it the same powers that it had previously, and by stipulating:

That the following members be appointed to act on behalf of the House of Commons on the Special Joint Committee, namely, Messrs. Alexander, Allmand, Asselin, Breau, Brewin, Dinsdale, Fairweather, Fortin, Gibson, Hogarth, Hopkins, Lachance, MacGuigan, Marceau, McQuaid, Osler, Ouellet, Roberts, Rowland and Woolliams; and

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint Their Honours thereof.

I wonder whether the House would be agreeable to an order in those terms, so that the committee may continue its work as requested.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, am I to understand from the minister that the terms in which the consent is sought are as laid down in the formal order which he and I have discussed?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Yes. I am afraid the hon. member was not in the House, but I sent a copy of it to his colleague, the whip, earlier and I understood he was agreeable to it. If the hon. member wishes, I will read it in full.

Mr. Baldwin: Yes.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The order would be as follows:

That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to examine and report upon proposals, made public, or which are from time to time made public by the government of Canada, on a number of subjects related to the Constitution of Canada during the course of the comprehensive review of the Constitution of Canada, which review was agreed upon at the Constitutional Conference of the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premiers and Prime Ministers of the provinces in February, 1968, and alternative proposals on the same subjects;

That the committee have power to sit during sittings and members, such sub-committees as it may deem advisable or necessary;

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

That the committee have power to report from time to time, to send for persons, papers, and records, and to print such papers