

Business of the House

for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand). It is with a sense of pride that I want to support the amendment moved by my colleague from Matane.

When a Canadian, proud to be one, reads clause 14 (1), he cannot but be satisfied.

In fact, it reads and I quote:

Every man and woman who
a) has attained the age of eighteen years, and
b) is a Canadian citizen,
is qualified as an elector.

The condition stated in the first paragraph is the age of 18 years.

In subclause (3) one reads:

Every British subject, other than a Canadian citizen who

a) was qualified as an elector—

I shall not repeat the eloquent words spoken by the hon. member for Papineau but I certainly echo them.

Mr. Chairman, I suggest that in a democracy two basic conditions have to be satisfied for one to exercise his franchise. The first condition is to be 18 years of age and the second is to be a Canadian citizen. Once these two conditions are fulfilled, one can express one's opinion and take part in the election of the government of Canada.

In my view, the provisions relating to British subjects are remains of colonialism which deal a blow to our pride as Canadians and which help to increase misunderstanding and intolerance in Canada.

I believe that as members of Parliament, we have a duty to promote in every possible way the proud awareness of our country. We must delete in our laws, whenever the opportunity arises, the traces of a colonialism which has become long ago a thing of the past.

It is with pride and pleasure that I support the amendment introduced by the hon. member for Matane which has already received the support of other hon. members I hope it will be passed by the House, thus proving it is truly the House of Commons of Canada.

[*English*]

Mr. Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to take up much of the time of the committee. I see I have only two minutes left in which to speak. I have listened with a great deal of interest to the debate. I suppose, as a member of the group that were Canada's first citizens, a group that

did not have the right to vote until 1960, I can say it is only correct that the right to vote should be given only to those who are Canadian citizens.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): The hon. member for Cochrane and the hon. member for Matane have stated this position clearly. It is a great thing to be a Canadian and I believe that the intent of the amendment advanced by the hon. member for Matane is right. Surely, only those who become Canadian citizens or are Canadian citizens should have the right to vote. You know, we lived under an old system of colonialism. We were told, "You are Indian boys; be nice; run along back to your reserves, like good boys." That was an aspect of colonialism and we are at present discussing the vestiges of colonialism. Surely, we have grown out of that and can take our place in the world.

Mr. Nesbitt: Not by the way some are talking.

Mr. Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): Surely, if we have grown up, we should say that the right to vote in this country ought to be limited to those who are Canadian citizens.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Chairman, I was about to call it 6 o'clock so as to be the first to take the floor when the debate resumes.

[*English*]

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, before we rise for the evening could I put on the record the business for the remainder of this week? Tomorrow, as indicated, will be the last allotted day for this period, and I draw the attention of hon. members to the motions that will be up for consideration during the course of the day. On Friday the order will be as follows: the first item will be Government Order No. 70, Bill C-187, respecting the Northern Inland Waters and the motion to concur in the Senate amendment. The second item will be Government Order 95, Bill C-212, the Northern omnibus bill. Third will be Government Order No. 100, Bill C-218, the amendment to the Aeronautics Act.