

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

supporters of that theory. That is why I should like the government to make a special effort to pay tribute to the memory of Sir Étienne Pascal Taché by granting the request of the Montmagny Junior Chamber of Commerce and restoring the Taché manor. If it is impossible to reach an agreement with the interested parties, let a monument be erected to his memory, or in any event, let the government do something to honour him.

Mr. Speaker, before bringing my remarks to a close, I should like to say that to celebrate the Centennial, the federal government should not hesitate to take initiatives on its own if, in certain cases, it cannot obtain the co-operation of other authorities. It was disgraceful to note absences, in 1967, which absences must be deplored. Provided the government ceases to rely on other authorities and assumes its responsibilities in the Centennial festivities, we will celebrate it in unison without banking on others to do it.

I feel this is a wonderful opportunity for the government to take the lead, without asking the co-operation of others who might be reticent about granting it, to pay tribute to the memory of Sir Étienne Pascal Taché.

Hon. John N. Turner (Member of the Administration): Mr. Speaker, tonight I have the honour to represent the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Laing). I listened with great interest to the historical account concerning Sir Étienne Pascal Taché, a patriot who took part in the war of 1812 and a physician by profession. He was the member for l'Islet in 1841 and minister of public works in 1848, under the Lafontaine-Baldwin government; prime minister, in 1856, in the so-called Taché-Macdonald administration; after that, he became legislative councillor and once again prime minister in 1864, under the Taché-Macdonald administration.

● (10:20 p.m.)

He presided over the Quebec conference in 1864, but this is not the only thing I am interested in, Mr. Speaker. I am also interested in the genealogy of this famous man.

Sir Étienne-Pascal Taché had several children, among which a daughter, Marie-Sophie-Malthilde Taché, who married François-Jacques-Albert Bender, a Montmagny lawyer, on September 10, 1844.

Several children were born of the Bender-Taché marriage, among which we note Marie-Éléonore-Eulalie-Henriette Bender, who became the wife of Mr. Phillippe-Auguste

Choquette, lawyer, on August 29, 1883. Mr. Choquette sat in the House of Commons as a member for Montmagny in 1887, 1891 and 1896; a friend of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he was appointed senator and then made a judge.

And of the Choquette-Bender marriage, Mr. Speaker, were issued several children, including Hon. Fernand Choquette, now a judge of the Quebec court of appeal and father of the august Choquette, the member for Lotbinière.

Now, not only because of the renown of his ancestor Étienne Pascal Taché, but also because of the drive, the energy, the intellectual powers of his descendant, the present member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette), I shall personally recommend to the minister that this request be accepted.

[English]

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD—INQUIRY AS TO PLANS FOR HONOURING BIRTHDAY

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, it is a happy coincidence that I should be discussing one of the Fathers of Confederation after such an eloquent appeal by the lineal descendant of another Father of Confederation. I am not, of course, a lineal descendant of Sir Étienne Taché but I am a political and spiritual descendant of that great man, great Conservative and great Canadian, and I would like to say a word about his friend, Sir John A. Macdonald.

I was very pleased over the recess to read press releases to the effect that the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) was considering taking steps that would bring about a national holiday in recognition of the birthday of our first prime minister. But I was sorry to discover when I came back to Ottawa that my expectations, and the expectations of a great number of Canadian people, were not being borne out in the actuality.

I am disappointed that the Prime Minister did not take the opportunity of giving a lead in this matter. It would have been very fitting indeed had the leader of a Liberal party taken the step which would have brought about in Canada a Sir John A. Macdonald day. I think the information contained in the press release is an inadequate recognition of a man so great as was Sir John A. I think we have reached a stage where we should have a full-fledged national holiday to honour this great Father of Confederation. It should be a full holiday and should not be for this year only, but imbedded permanently, so that we can set aside one day from the work-a-day routine