

Adjournment Motion

saying, "Here is the wife"—Quebec being the wife and the rest of Canada being the husband, I suppose. Perhaps it should be the other way around. He seems to be saying that the wife has decided she wants a divorce but she would be willing to cohabit so long as the husband pays her enough. That seems to be the approach of the new premier of Quebec. I must say that the Prime Minister, and the former and the present Premier of Quebec, all three gentlemen, are totally wrong in their impression of the country and what it is.

I think the philosophy which these two gentlemen have adopted, namely, to do anything that is necessary to further their political goals, should be cast aside. The time has come when all Canadians—but particularly governments because they are the ones in power—must make up their mind to take all necessary steps to cure the ills to which I have referred and a whole lot of others to which I have not referred. When all these ills are dealt with, I am sure that confederation will be further ahead than it appears to be at present. It seems that the stage is set for the party which brought this country together to come back and reaffirm the marriage which took place 110 years ago. I am very pleased to say that we are ready, willing and able to do it—and the sooner the better.

PROCEEDING ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. 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 Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Public Service—Freezing of pensions of members of armed forces and mounted police until age 60—Denial of pensions to certain widows—Request for report; the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave)—Transport—Possibility of continued assistance to flour shipments through Atlantic port; the hon. member for Okanagan-Kootenay (Mr. Johnston)—Manpower—Canada Works Program—Suggested creation of special fund for recycling operation.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, may I call it five o'clock? I will be speaking in private members' hour.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): 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, notices of motions, private bills and public bills.

[Mr. Yewchuk.]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Notice of motion No. 4, in the name of the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

Some hon. Members: Stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The motion stands at the request of the government. Notice of motion No. 7, in the name of the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall).

Some hon. Members: Stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The motion stands at the request of the government.

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BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

AMENDMENTS TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS ADOPTED BY
CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER CONFERENCE

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of making a proposal to the Parliament of the United Kingdom to amend the British North America Act to include the following provisions as adopted unanimously at the Canadian Constitutional Charter Conference held at Victoria in June 1971:

"The parliament and government of Canada and the legislatures and governments of the provinces are committed to:

(1) the promotion of equality of opportunity and well being for all individuals in Canada;

(2) the assurance, as nearly as possible, that essential public services of reasonable quality are available to all individuals in Canada; and

(3) the promotion of economic development to reduce disparities in the social and economic opportunities for all individuals in Canada wherever they may live."; and

That the Parliament of the United Kingdom amend the act only where it has received a formal request from the legislatures and governments of the provinces to amend the act in the same manner.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I suppose it is obvious that because of my background I am a fairly strong believer in the concept of providence. There is something providential in the fact that we are debating this notice of motion on the day on which we are having a general debate of fiscal arrangements, because there is certainly the closest possible relationship between the bill presented by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) and the motion I have on the order paper today. This motion asks the government of Canada to submit to parliament a proposal for amending the BNA Act, our constitution. It would add to the BNA Act a statement of purpose or commitment to which the federal and the ten provincial governments would subscribe. This purpose, simply stated, would be the elimination of disparities and the promotion of equality of opportunity for all Canadians regardless of where they live. This motion asks also that in addressing the British parliament for the proposed