

Sir John A. Macdonald Day

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: 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 Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Whittaker)—Finance—Request for increase in employment in agriculture exemption; the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McRae)—Environmental Affairs—Asbestos fibre count of water in Great Lakes—Request that International Joint Commission conduct independent study; the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Hurlburt)—National Defence—Agriculture—Request government not make change in grades of beef purchased for armed forces.

It being after five o'clock the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, private bills, and notices of motions.

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think there might be agreement to take Bill C-240 standing in the name of the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie).

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed, and is it in order, that the House shall move, without prejudice to the standing of other bills, at this hour directly to the consideration of Bill C-240 standing in the name of the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD DAY

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH AS LEGAL HOLIDAY

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough) moved that Bill C-240, respecting Sir John A. Macdonald Day, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I regret that we have lost some time for private members' hour, but I could say that it was for a good cause.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macquarrie: For many years I have been endeavouring to direct the attention of this House to the great need in this country for sharpening the awareness of Canadian people and parliamentarians of the great men and great moments in our historic past. I have had some losses and gained some victories.

[Mr. Speaker.]

The beautiful house of Sir Robert Borden was destroyed, we still do not possess the historic home of Sir John A. Macdonald, and I have just heard from the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald) that the fine residence of the great and distinguished former prime minister, the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, is now for sale. I wonder when we will ever learn to stop despoiling historic sites and begin to appreciate some of the great men of our past.

Mr. Dinsdale: Where's Heritage Canada?

Mr. Macquarrie: As a great admirer of Sir John A. Macdonald I agree with him on the importance of compromise, and while I have tried for 12 years to have a Sir John A. Macdonald holiday brought about and never quite succeeded, if I understand the intent of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, one of the days listed as Heritage Day will be designated Sir John A. Macdonald Day, and that will be a great satisfaction. I think if Sir John A. were here he would say that you gather in what you can and make the most of it. So I am satisfied with that, and I pay tribute to the men and women in the committee who worked so well.

I also want to pay tribute to those who, through several parliaments, have tried to develop a better and richer appreciation of our history. The work of the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart), who was the first to introduce a private members' bill to have the likenesses of our prime ministers appear on paper money, has now been realized. Sir Wilfrid Laurier appears on \$5 bills and Sir John A. Macdonald on \$10 bills. I am told by those who have them that Mackenzie King appears on the \$50, and the \$100 bills will soon see the likeness of Sir Robert Borden. Some day I may be able to see one of those as well.

● (1750)

It is my hope that the spirit of co-operation will carry through, that this idea will be enforced, and that I will have the privilege of seeing a further spirit of compromise and ask, after all those who wish to speak have spoken, that this bill be withdrawn and the sentiment find its expression in Heritage Day.

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, I must congratulate my good friend, the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie), and thank him for his courtesy in mentioning that it was a private member's bill of mine that suggested putting the likeness of former prime ministers on our currency. I am glad that has come about.

The hon. member is to be congratulated for continually bringing forth this matter of having a day to honour our first prime minister. Although it is a little disappointing for him that the committee did not decide to have a Sir John A. Macdonald Day every year, I am glad that he is at least partially satisfied that Heritage Day will honour Sir John A. on at least one occasion, and perhaps on other occasions in the future. It is good to have things Canadian, and it is good to honour our past. Suggestions, such as the one made by the hon. member for Hillsborough, make us appreciate our past, and help us with respect to the feeling for citizenship in Canada.

There are many other things that we can honour. Although the hon. member would undoubtedly have liked