The Address-Mr. Collenette

Madam Speaker: Does the suggestion of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) have agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Yvon Pinard (for the Prime Minister) moved:

That Madam Speaker send a Message to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, extending the congratulations of the House of Commons of Canada on Her completion on August 4, 1980, of Her eightieth year, expressing the gratefulness of the people of Canada for the many services Her Majesty has rendered them over the years, including Her many visits, beginning with the first in 1939 when she accompanied Her husband, His Majesty King George VI, on the first visit of a reigning monarch to this country, and wishing Her continued good health and long life.

Madam Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

PYRAMID COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

MEASURE TO REVIVE COMPANY

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, there has been agreement between the three parties that Bill S-8, a private member's bill which was passed through the Senate yesterday would be brought before the House. I do not think that there is any cause to hold up the bill.

The sole purpose of the bill is to revive a company known as Pyramid Communications Limited which through some inadvertence allowed their charter to lapse. It is now imperative, in the circumstances, that the company be revived and it be deemed not to have been dissolved, in order to allow the company to dispose of certain real estate holdings which it hopes to sell.

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I would like to confirm these consultations. To be correct, I understand that Bill S-8 is a private member's private bill. The bill was passed by the Senate without amendment, and there is some urgency to it. We on this side will agree to have the bill sent to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, which we hope will meet later today on this particular bill.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I want to express agreement on this matter. There were consultations. While I am on my feet, I would also like to express my thanks to the staff of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) who facilitated the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) after we were in touch with them.

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, there were such consultations, and we are willing for this bill to be sent to the standing committee.

Madam Speaker: By unanimous consent, Mr. Darling, seconded by Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton), moves that Bill

S-8, an act to revive Pyramid Communications Limited, be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, and that the provisions of Standing Order 103(1) be suspended in relation thereto.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed from Monday, May 12, 1980, consideration of the motion of Mrs. Côté for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I find myself in a very odd position, having spoken back on May 12 for nine minutes, I believe, when the address was last before the House on its seventh day. As you can see, I have the floor once again.

It is very unusual, because this is the third occasion on which I have tried to complete one speech. I started off on May 12, on the seventh day. Then on May 22, hon. members of the New Democratic Party, on their opposition day, kindly facilitated a constitutional debate in which I proceeded to say a few words. I would like today to conclude my speech of the last couple of months. In a sense, it is somewhat novel because I have had the benefit of being able to use current events which have intervened between the various debates to update the message which I was trying to bring to the House.

There are a couple of minutes left before one o'clock and I would like to summarize, since it is sounding somewhat like a serialized speech, the points which I want to make. On May 12, when the seventh day of the address was allotted, I tried to make the point about the entrenchment of minority and language rights in any new constitution. This is something for which members of this party have stood for years. It is something to which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) attaches a particular importance. I would hope that there is a similar sentiment on the other side of the House and in all parties.

I realize that some of the provinces are somewhat reluctant to entrench language rights in the constitution. I would hope that the deliberations which are now under way under the chairmanship of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) will bear some fruit. As I mentioned on May 12, one of the imperatives in constitutional reform is that we entrench minority and language rights in the new constitution.