

*Canadian Centennial*

to the same treatment as a limited dividend company organized from local people to provide low rental housing.

I mention this matter because it is something that should come under the heading of planning by an appropriate committee. So far as our elder citizens are concerned, consideration should be given to municipalities in the construction of boarding homes. Furthermore, if the government does not act in the matter, I think this committee could give consideration to the making of loans to municipalities throughout Canada. Under the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act it is impossible at the present time for municipalities to obtain moneys for necessary work. I should like to read to the house a few remarks made by the reeve of the municipality of Summerland in his letter to me. He says:

Numerous efforts have been made by the Canadian federation of mayors and municipalities to have the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act unfrozen and a larger fund made available. When money was available from this act, in the late 1930's Summerland borrowed nearly a quarter of a million at 2 per cent which was used to instal the cast iron domestic water system. This has been a tremendous help to the district. We do not expect to borrow money at 2 per cent if this act is unfrozen but we would expect to be able to borrow money at close to the rate that the federal government can borrow money.

As far as I am concerned, if this committee should be set up I think it should be a very impartial and capable committee as far as possible. On that committee there should be men who have vision and intelligence and who can pursue a proper policy in the development of this nation. We have many problems that need attention and I should like to endorse the resolution.

(Translation):

**Mr. Pierre Gauthier (Porineuf):** Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of speaking at any length, I only wish to make a few brief remarks on the resolution now under consideration. I wish first of all to congratulate the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) for putting that resolution on the order paper. He deserves credit for being interested in preparing public opinion to celebrate worthily the 100th anniversary of this Canadian confederation of ours. I have no intention of opposing the motion.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Hear! hear!

**Mr. Gauthier (Porineuf):** However, I believe that his motion should have inspired speeches of a far more serious nature than those I have heard here this afternoon, which were almost

exclusively of a political nature. I have no intention of following suit. In any event the only impression that has remained with me after hearing these speeches on such a worthy resolution is that which reminded me of an old song which I used to enjoy playing on my phonograph: "I am forever blowing bubbles".

The proposed resolution reads as follows:

That in the opinion of this house . . .

Mr. Speaker, intending to speak French I wish to point out that it is regrettable that we do not yet have a system of simultaneous interpretation. However, and I speak most sincerely when I say this, I hope that under your chairmanship the committee which has been entrusted with the study of this matter will progress in such a way that, when the time comes to celebrate the anniversary of the Canadian confederation, we will be in a position to say that simultaneous translation, as set up in the House of Commons, is one way to celebrate this anniversary, to strengthen national unity and to say to the whole world that because of the growing interest shown by hon. members in learning another language than their own, whatever it be, confederation has not been a failure but, on the contrary, has served to bring closer together those who speak the two principal languages of this country.

Unquestionably, to make anything firmer, stronger, it must first be understood and the road to good understanding between the various races that make up the Canadian nation lies in the direction of a proper understanding of each other's language. When people understand each other's language, they get along well.

And now, coming back to the proposed resolution, here is how it reads:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give consideration to the advisability of the establishment of the 100th anniversary committee, with provision for federal and provincial representation—

I heartily endorse the wording of the beginning of this resolution.

—for the purpose of planning the economic and social development of this country on a vast scale—

Mr. Speaker, in an economy such as ours and at the rate Canada has been developing, can this development be speeded up even more by the establishment of even larger undertakings, and even faster economic development than that which Canada has known for years under all governments? I said I would not indulge in petty politics in the course of my remarks.

I realize that often one has to leave the country, visit other countries, and meet with