

Canadian Centennial

the title of the document in order to identify it, but I read absolutely nothing from the document.

Mr. Speaker: That is my recollection, that the document was not quoted except to identify it. This is not a debatable motion. The minister has explained his objection to complying with the order, and all that remains now is to dispose of the motion. Those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: Those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the motion lost.

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL**MOTION TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE TO PLAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CELEBRATION**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give consideration to the advisability of the establishment of a 100th anniversary committee, with provision for federal and provincial representation, for the purpose of planning the economic and social development of this country on a vast scale, including inter alia housing and slum clearance, conservation, irrigation and power projects, improvements in transportation, highway construction, the elimination of grade crossings, the building of hospitals, assistance to municipal projects and other public works, and also for the purpose of planning ways and means to strengthen the economy of every section of this country; and that consideration should be given to the advisability of such a program being launched immediately and being pursued vigorously year by year so that on July 1, 1967, the people of Canada will be in a position to celebrate this nation's 100th birthday not only with fireworks and speeches but by the achievement of a land of health and abundance for all our people.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the resolution which I have the honour to present to the house pretty well speaks for itself.

Mr. Byrne: It certainly does.

Mr. Pickersgill: We will take it as read.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am sure all of us in Canada realize that this nation owes a great debt of gratitude to some of those who have gone before us, and who dreamed dreams of a great country on this northern half of the North American continent. None of us can deny the debt that we owe to Sir John A. Macdonald, that great statesman who dreamed of Canada as a separate country within the British family without whose dream we would not be sitting

[Mr. Harkness.]

here today as the members of the parliament of a sovereign nation. I am sure it is also agreed that we owe a great debt to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who at the turn of the present century uttered those famous words, "The twentieth century belongs to Canada." He, like that other great leader, dreamed of the greatness in store for this nation.

There are others to whom Canada is greatly indebted. I believe those of the two larger parties in this house who have applauded the sentiments I have just expressed will agree with me that this generation of Canadians also owes a debt to my predecessor, the late J. S. Woodsworth, who for many years was the member for Winnipeg North Centre, and I welcome the applause given to his name. He too was a great Canadian, a man who dreamed of Canada as a country not only great in expanse and in terms of economic progress but a country where there might be social security and a high standard of living for all the ordinary people of this nation. Because that great man dreamed dreams and had visions of a better day, many people in Canada now enjoy a better life.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that it is appropriate for us from time to time to lift ourselves out of the matters that concern us for the moment and plan boldly for the future of this Canada. It is for that reason I offer the suggestion that we seize upon the fact that in ten years we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of confederation as an opportunity to plan still further for the development of this nation and for the achievement of a land in which, as my motion suggests, there will be health and abundance for all our people.

The resolution which Your Honour read out in my name a few minutes ago has been on the order paper for three or four sessions, although this is the first time it has been reached for debate. When I filed it in previous sessions I was conscious of the fact that probably it would not be reached. But I felt that perhaps it was a good idea to let the resolution reach the light of day and be seen for two or three years so that our people might get used to the thought of beginning to plan now for the centenary of the founding of this country.

It is true that there have been debates on other matters during which the ideas contained in this resolution have been put forward, notably in the debate on March 2, 1955, when the present Secretary of State (Mrs. Fairclough) moved an amendment on the motion to go into supply having to do with the unemployment situation which obtained at that time. In the course of that