

Citizenship

the same time a whole host of people referred to by the hon. member for Provencher.

The hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre is attempting to remove a frustration. As our spokesman and critic has pointed out, we are in sympathy with the principle enunciated by the hon. member, but we must register some caution in respect of this bill as it now stands.

The parliamentary secretary has indicated there would have to be unanimous agreement in respect of the bill as it is entitled "An Act to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act", but should read "An Act to amend the Citizenship Act" in order to bring it within the four corners of the legislation which has been passed. Unfortunately that legislation has not been promulgated. Many people have asked what happened to the measure. It is of considerable importance, particularly that provision which reduces the time before one can acquire citizenship from five to three years. The minister indicated that it will not be ready for promulgation until some time in February, 1977. I hope there will be no pussyfooting in respect of that date which the minister announced in a press release.

The other thing that disturbs me is that we have not yet seen the bill in terms of the Immigration Act. We all know what is in it. We all know it has been given first reading, but we do not know its precise contents. Perhaps we are a little early in debating this measure as we do not know what position will be taken in the new immigration bill.

An hon. Member: We will see it at the committee.

Mr. Alexander: If the hon. member wants to ask a question I will be pleased to answer, but I do not want to use up my time in that way.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. If the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin) wants to ask a question he will first have to return to his own seat.

Mr. Alexander: I was trying to help the hon. member who was interrupting me. We accept the principle of the bill regarding epileptics, but we register some caution in respect of those others who will also be included. We want the bill sent to the committee for the purpose of exploring the implications that will result from the inclusion of sections 7 and 8 of the Immigration Act.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The question is on the motion of the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre that Bill C-237 be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films, and Assistance to the Arts. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Alexander.]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films, and Assistance to the Arts.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is it the pleasure of the House to revert to Bill C-13?

An hon. Member: No, call it six o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Hon. members have heard the suggestion that we call it six o'clock. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m.

At 5.42 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS ACT

AMENDMENT TO INCREASE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF BOARD

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Allmand that Bill C-13, to amend the Historic Sites and Monuments Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, when we adjourned the debate at five o'clock I was speaking about Fort St. Joseph on St. Joseph's Island in the Algoma riding and the developments taking place there. I has just mentioned that \$323,000 has been provided for the construction of a visitors' reception centre and interpretative centre for Fort St. Joseph. This facility will provide display space for the artifacts which have been unearthed at the fort. It will provide exhibit space, and also administrative and visitor service areas will be provided in a new building which is of contemporary design but very well designed to suit a national historic site.

A small theatre will also be provided for the hundreds of school students who visit the fort ruins each year. I think this is an important development because it will provide visitor services, and we do have a large number of student groups visit the fort each year. One teacher who visited the fort, and who pays regular visits to Fort St. Joseph, in a letter to me described it in this way: