

Parliament Hill

problem of how we honour great Canadians like John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson.

Since John A. Macdonald first recommended a statue in honour of George-Etienne Cartier in 1873, we have never followed a coherent process for statue commemoration. In fact, a motion such as mine had not been considered by Parliament for nearly 20 years because of the disastrous handling of the last two statues which were erected on Parliament Hill. In 1966, the then Secretary of State proposed that statues of four Prime Ministers be commissioned and placed on Parliament Hill. After a year of controversy and conflict, only two of the four statues were completed. The statue of the Hon. Arthur Meighen was placed in storage and is still there. The maquette for the statue of the Hon. R. B. Bennett was lost. All we have are some pictures of the maquette which are not acceptable.

For the next 20 years no action was taken to erect a statue for any other former Prime Minister. That is a sad commentary on the state of how we recognize our national leaders and celebrate our nation's history. When I first proposed my motion I wanted to address this inaction and encourage the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) to initiate a consistent statue policy. The days of a motion by motion approach to honouring former Prime Ministers must end or it will take us another 20 years just to erect statues for the eight Prime Ministers who have yet to be recognized.

I was pleased that the Minister of Public Works tabled in the House today the report on commemorative statues to Canadian Prime Ministers and commemoratives to other eminent Canadians. Included in the report is a section on how other countries pay tribute to their founders. Perhaps it is time we considered a national statuary hall similar to the one in the United States capital where each province would be allowed to honour its historic figures.

We have the report filed by the Minister and it is now time we started working together to consider these guidelines, instead of further *ad hoc* measures, in order that John Diefenbaker, Lester Pearson and all our former Prime Ministers can live in lasting memory here on Parliament Hill and in the National Capital Region as well as in our history books.

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I thought there would be general agreement by all Parties to pass this motion immediately. The Hon. Member for Lasalle (Mr. Lanthier) indicated that if the mover of the motion were in agreement, he would like the motion to be amended to include "other suitable sites" for the placement of a statue commemorating the Hon. Lester B. Pearson, but that if Parliament were in agreement, he would be prepared to accept the motion as it now stands. The Hon. Member for Scarborough Centre (Mrs. Browes) is indicating that she as well would agree to accept the motion as it is. I am very glad that Hon. Members opposite are prepared to accept this motion.

I want to say only a few words on this matter. I believe there should be a committee responsible for the placement of statues and other memorabilia on the Hill. I hope that such a committee would consider other distinguished parliamentarians who ought to be honoured. Two such parliamentarians come readily to mind, the first being the first Leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, which subsequently became the New Democratic Party, J.F. Woodsworth. I think members would also agree that the first woman M.P., Agnes Macphail, should be honoured at some time. I agree that after this Bill is passed, parliamentarians should have a good discussion on the matters which have been raised by my hon. friend.

As my colleagues, the Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) and the Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Keeper), submitted, I think it is entirely appropriate to pass the motion of the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) to ensure that a statue of Mike Pearson is placed on Parliament Hill. I was alive and well, and for part of the time even in this House, when the two great gladiators on the Canadian scene were John Diefenbaker and Mike Pearson. They were dominant figures for over a decade and had many battles. In recent Canadian history it is unusual for two such figures to be face to face for that length of time. For that reason alone, one may like to see them face to face on Parliament Hill.

It was agreed last year, through the passage of the motion of the Hon. Member for Scarborough Centre, that we would commemorate a statue to the memory of the Right Hon. John George Diefenbaker. All Parties agreed to that. I cannot say strongly enough how important it is to have a statue of the Right Hon. Mike Pearson on Parliament Hill as well. It may be necessary to relocate some statues, but there is still room on the Hill. Even the statue of Mr. Diefenbaker could be relocated, but it should remain on Parliament Hill. His great opponent should be located nearby, so they may face each other on the Hill.

I think we all agree on Mr. Pearson's great contributions, although a few have not been mentioned. One of his very great contributions was the development of a spirit of co-operative federalism. Quite frankly, in my opinion he understood Quebec even better than his successor. He established the Bilingualism and Biculturalism Royal Commission. I believe he was the first Prime Minister to be really concerned about election expenses. The Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson did make the proposal to establish the commission on which M. J. Coldwell, among others, served, to examine electoral expenses and contributions to Parties. That is a landmark which we sometimes forget to acknowledge.

● (1720)

In conclusion, I support the motion and I am encouraged by the remarks of our friends opposite today that while they may favour a somewhat different motion, they will support the