

Immigration

complete control of that committee and members of the house would no longer have any influence then.

Now, if 18 or 19 members are to sit on the immigration committee, and if the Liberals or the Conservatives do not have time to attend its meetings, I feel that the independents who wish to do so should at least be allowed to attend and be appointed members, without the quorum having to be reduced. Let us be logical. The parliament should not accept, straight off, proposals whereby the number of members required for the committee to operate would be reduced from 18 or 19 to 12.

[English]

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Speaker, may I say a word on this matter? I believe the time has come when the house should consider legislation which would limit speakers on these matters to members from the two parties electing the largest number of members to this house. If that were the case this whole matter would be resolved.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Are we to understand from the remarks made by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Winkler) that he would like members from the two main parties only to have the right to speak on such a matter, while we, of the other parties, whether N.D.P., Créditistes, Social Credit or Independents, would not be allowed to do so? If I understood the member for Grey-Bruce correctly, that is what he meant—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order. There is obviously no question of privilege.

[English]

Is the house ready for the question?

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I should just like to suggest that the proposal made by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce is unworthy of that hon. gentleman.

Mr. Smallwood: It is not.

Mr. Patterson: I should like to ask the hon. gentleman whether he would be prepared to advance the same argument in those provinces where the Conservatives do not have any members whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion.

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to on division.

[Mr. Caouette.]

UNITED NATIONS**GOVERNMENT POSITION REGARDING
ADMISSION OF MAINLAND CHINA**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister in connection with the repeated press references to the effect that Canada is leading other nations to bring about the setting up of a committee to enable the Secretary General of the United Nations to arrive at a plan whereby communist China may be admitted to the Security Council, and the Republic of China relegated to a position in the General Assembly. Is it a fact that these negotiations are going on, and that the United States and the empire of Japan are taking the strongest possible objection to Canada's action, which to both of them is retrogressive?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in the house last week, Canada is engaged in consultations with other governments in preparation for the China item in the United Nations which will come up, it is understood, on November 18 in the General Assembly. The house will also recall that the Secretary of State for External Affairs told the General Assembly on September 26 of the growing opinion in Canada that if the United Nations is to realize its potential capacities we must make some further advance toward the objective of universality, particularly in regard to continental China which represents such a significant portion of the world's population. The Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out then, and I should like to stress again here, that there are fundamental obstacles lying in the way of resolving this issue, and it is not possible to predict whether this year's debate will be any more productive of a solution than have been those in the past.

Our consultations at the moment are concerned with the possibility of some further and equitable progress being made at this assembly toward universality of membership. It is too early to indicate whether or not it will be possible to do this.

Mr. Diefenbaker: First, Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister say whether or not Canada is joining with eight other nations to introduce a resolution in the United Nations, to which I have already previously referred in the house and, second, is it a fact that the strongest objection is being raised against communism by two of our major allies, the United States and Japan?