

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

No. 118 on today's order paper, concerns legislation that is no longer required. Therefore I would ask the permission of the house to drop it from the order paper.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

• (10:10 p.m.)

Mr. Knowles: Could we not do another one, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. McIlraith: That would be agreeable.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreeable?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PUBLIC SERVICE

JOINT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PENSIONS TO RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (for the Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board) moved:

That the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on the Public Service of Canada be empowered to inquire into and report upon the matter of the pensions paid to retired civil servants or their dependants under the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation Act: and

That a message be sent to the Senate informing Their Honours of this resolution and requesting that house, if it concurs, to authorize the committee to inquire into and report upon this matter.

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

Mr. Knowles: Carried.

Motion agreed to.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

[Translation]

HISTORIC SITES—REQUEST FOR RESTORATION OF MANOIR SIR ÉTIENNE TACHÉ

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) has a very definite pet subject and has of late become the sponsor of Sir John A. Macdonald.

[Mr. McIlraith.]

For my part, I should like to be the sponsor of a man quite as valorous, who served his country with quite as much enthusiasm, ability and intelligence, who was, at a certain time in our history, the partner of Sir John Macdonald and under whom the latter himself served, and I mean Sir Étienne Pascal Taché, a fine man.

I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that if I take up the cudgels for Sir Étienne Pascal Taché, I do it most objectively, because I must recognize that between him, who happens to be my ancestor and me, the descendant, there is very little in common.

First, Sir Étienne Pascal Taché was a Conservative which is clearly not in line with the views I hold. Then, he was a Royalist, to which I bear no resemblance. Finally, it has been said of him that he was a conciliator. My impression is that his descendant is more a provocateur.

Some hon. Members: Ah, ah.

Mr. Choquette: That is why, Mr. Speaker, having nothing in common with him whose cause I wish to plead tonight, I feel quite free to speak on his behalf and I ask the support of the government to pay a very special homage, in this centennial year, to the memory of this former prime minister of Canada, of this Father of Confederation who, in October 1864, presided over one of the first Quebec conferences which led, as we all know, to the pact of confederation the value of which it is the intention to underline in 1967.

Sir Étienne Pascal Taché was member for l'Islet in the House of Commons. He was later appointed to the legislative council. Queen Victoria knighted him—a title which I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, I will ever be given by Queen Elizabeth.

Sir Étienne Pascal Taché was also a great servant of the state and practiced his profession with great magnanimity, for he was a highly respected physician in his locality. He was a Canadian in the true sense. He took part in the war of 1812. He was obviously anti-annexionist. He wanted Canada to be truly Canadian. I am convinced that if he were living to-day, he would certainly be one of those great Canadians who endeavour to fight those who want to tear the country apart.

That is why we are proud to pay tribute to those who want to keep Canada in its integrity and we of the government are ardent