

such subcommittees all or any of their powers except the power to report directly to the House;

That the committee have power to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House of Commons;

That the committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the committee;

That the committee submit their report not later than December 9, 1980;

That the quorum of the committee be 12 members, whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken, so long as both Houses are represented and that the joint chairmen be authorized to hold meetings, to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof, when six members are present so long as both Houses are represented; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems it to be advisable, members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I had occasion to speak for four minutes yesterday evening before the debate was interrupted, and I see that it is now almost one o'clock. With your permission, may we call it one o'clock and resume the debate this afternoon?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

● (1400)

[Translation]

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. When the House took recess at one o'clock this afternoon, government order No. 18 was under consideration and the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy Mines and Resources (Mr. MacLaren) had the floor.

[English]

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, this is the third time I have begun this speech, and I hope that I may be able to complete it this afternoon.

As we adjourned our sitting last night, I was saying that today, 113 years after confederation, we are once again engaged in nation-building. Today we have before us legislation which sets forth three broad objectives—three Canadian imperatives for our constitution.

The first is to patriate the various acts which will then become the new Constitution of Canada, and to end our anachronistic legislative dependence upon another Parliament.

The Constitution

Second, we wish to entrench a Canadian charter of rights, including mobility rights and minority language education.

Third, we wish to entrench the principle of equality for all Canadians wherever they live.

Others have spoken and others will speak of the procedures of patriation which are set forth in the legislation. They will speak about the proposed methods of amendment to the constitution when it becomes a Canadian constitution in the fullest sense of that word, but this afternoon I want to speak about another matter.

I want to speak about one of the principal rights that is guaranteed in the new constitution, the right of every Canadian to live and to work for himself or herself in any part of Canada and to provide for his or her family in any part of Canada in which he or she chooses to live. In doing so I shall emphasize the importance of these rights to each and every Canadian. They are as well rights designed to encourage the economic integration of the Canadian union in a highly competitive world.

Mobility rights are important to every Canadian. Indeed, most Canadians would assume that they have the right to move about their country and to live and work where they will. About half of the Canadian population moves every five years. Statistics show that one Canadian in every 20 moves from one province to another once every five years.

Extrapolating past trends indicates that mobility rates are very likely to increase. The guarantee of mobility rights is one part of a yet wider guarantee of movement which is essential to making a success of an economic union. Among other things, the Fathers of Confederation knew that the continuation of the customs barriers on manufactured goods and produce which had marked the colonies of British North America had merely served to weaken them all. When the Fathers of Confederation moved toward the British North America Act, they were on the one hand fearful of the British free trade policy, which seemed to call into jeopardy the health of the British North America economy. They were also fearful of the United States abandonment of reciprocity, that is free trade in North America of manufactured goods. So the Fathers of Confederation rightly recognized that economic forces were making for co-operation in British North America, in addition to the various political forces which were also lending impetus to partnership. They wisely sought an economic union for the mutual benefit of all.

● (1410)

In the British North America Act, section 91 substantiates this approach by giving the federal government the fiscal and monetary powers necessary in a customs union, including the tools necessary to ensure the viability of a common market, that is, a common postal service, weights and measures, the census and statistics, matters relating to bankruptcy, patents and copyrights, unemployment insurance and competition policy.

The power to establish interprovincial and international transport policy required to enhance our economic integration