

Canadian World Exhibition Corporation

entered into in committee be ratified by the house, because actually the committee of the whole has no right to consider the order of business of the house. I think now that the Speaker is back in the chair the arrangement that was agreed on at five o'clock in committee should be confirmed.

Mr. Chevrier: I have a point to make, Mr. Speaker. The agreement was that the motion of my hon. friend for Essex East would carry on for an hour between nine and ten o'clock, or eight and nine o'clock in accordance with where we had advanced our business. But now Your Honour has just read a message from the other place which indicates we are going to be called there at 9.45. On the understanding that we be given the full hour does the house leader have any objection to that hour running from 8.45 to 9.45?

Mr. Churchill: I have no objection.

Mr. Speaker: Then it is agreed instead of nine o'clock it will be 8.45.

Mr. Knowles: Could we down at this end of the chamber be told what is agreed to?

An hon. Member: 8.45 to 9.45.

CANADIAN WORLD EXHIBITION CORPORATION

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS, GRANT OF FUNDS, ETC.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (for the Prime Minister) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-103, to establish the Canadian World Exhibition Corporation.

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I understand the minister wants to make a statement on this. I expect he will.

Mr. Speaker: We have given second reading. I do not know that—

Mr. Pickersgill: I think that was done inadvertently.

Mr. Speaker: We could revert to the discussion before second reading, or it could be done in committee. However, I do not wish to speak for the committee.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, the understanding was that the minister would carry on with the statement today, and I would hope we could get consent for that purpose.

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Speaker, if it is agreeable to the hon. member I could make my statement on clause 1 of the bill in committee.

Mr. Chevrier: I think we would prefer to have it with Your Honour in the chair.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

(Translation):

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am most happy to have this opportunity of putting before the house a bill entitled: "An Act to establish the Canadian World Exhibition Corporation".

In view of the national character of this magnificent project, I intend to make my remarks in both official languages of the nation, French and English. And I also intend, because of the short time at our disposal, to keep my remarks at a minimum.

This world exhibition project may be the most extensive economic undertaking of Canada since confederation. This is a project of an extraordinary scope which will certainly contribute to the economic and cultural development of the Canadian nation.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker, we were privileged indeed last November 13 to receive, after many deliberations, authority from the bureau of international exhibitions to hold in Canada, on the occasion of our centenary, a world's exhibition of a No. 1 class. We had already in 1959 solicited from the bureau permission to hold this exhibition in Canada in 1967. However, at that time the Soviet union also wanted to hold an exhibition in Moscow in 1967 in order to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of their revolution. For that reason a vote had to be taken and unfortunately Canada lost by one vote. However, those who were then connected with this project—and I was one of them—had the impression that there was still a chance for Canada to eventually secure that exhibition which we considered necessary in order to celebrate in proper fashion the hundredth anniversary of our confederation. We therefore never lost hope and we kept in contact with the bureau in the hope that something would happen which would permit us to have this exhibition.

The event for which we were hoping eventually came about, and in due course the U.S.S.R. announced that they were renouncing, for reasons of their own, the permission given them to hold this exhibition in Moscow in 1967. This permitted us to renew our application to the bureau of international exhibitions. We received the co-operation of the officials of the bureau and the various personnel of the Department of External Affairs, who actually succeeded in securing the concurrence of the 30 member nations of the bureau of international exhibitions. Thus on November 13 we managed to get a decision by acclamation that we could hold this