

have wasted the time of the House. We would then have to reconsider, redraft, and start again. It is in that context that we must begin to wonder whether these carefully crafted and carefully worded sentences really do attend to the will of Canadians as members opposite tell us the constitution act expresses that will.

One of the problems the minister identified is the problem of staff morale. Can we get adequate people, can we keep them, will they be happy and productive? By bringing forward this legislation the minister is telling us that by creating a Crown corporation we will be in a better position to recruit staff, train them, retain them and keep them efficient. However, I have to wonder if these employees will be happy working for a Crown corporation, in effect an extension of the government under the provisions of the constitution act, 1980.

I gave as an example clauses 15 (1) and (2), which deal with discrimination rights. I pull one out of that bill. It says we shall not discriminate on the basis of age. Does that have an implication for employees of the Post Office? I do not know, but some people with legal training have told me that they suspect it will.

I raised the issue of whether the only way to deliver money to senior citizens, those who have retired from the Post Office, in the future might be through the application of a means test because all laws in Canada which put age into them will be discriminatory. Our entire life insurance program and our pension plans will be potentially threatened as a result of that one simple provision.

There are other consequences. If postal employees move to a particular community and expect their child to start school at age six and receive a fairly decent education, what if some parents wanting their children to start at age four sued on the basis of this act and the courts ruled that they could not be denied? Say the funds available to a local community to provide schooling have to be provided for four-year-olds as well as five-year-olds, six-year-olds and up. I wonder whether the morale of postal workers would be affected by that kind of provision. I wonder whether the age to drive and the pensionable age would also be affected.

I raise these matters because we do not do this House of Commons or the people of Canada a service unless we examine legislation in the context in which it comes into being and can be enforced. We are examining a postal bill here today with some sense of fear on this side of the House that the social and cultural climate in Canada, the difficulties created by the constitution act, 1980, will reverberate, that this effort and the considerable expense required to change the postal service of Canada into a Crown corporation may in fact be undermined by the simultaneous entry into the Canadian mosaic of a piece of legislation that was not well thought out.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, you are indicating that I have run out of time. I believe I will have the floor to continue the next time the debate comes up.

Electoral Representation

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The hon. member is correct. When debate continues on another day, he will be privileged to continue the debate on this bill.

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● (1700)

THE CONSTITUTION

MEMBERS DESIGNATED TO SERVE ON CONSTITUTIONAL SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr. Charles Turner (London East) moved:

That the members designated to serve on the part of this House on the Special Joint Committee to consider a proposed address to Her Majesty the Queen concerning the Constitution of Canada be: Mr. Beatty, Mr. Bockstael, Miss Campbell, Mr. Corbin, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Epp, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Joyal, Mr. Knowles, Mr. Lapierre, Mr. Mackasey, Mr. McGrath and Mr. Nyström; and that a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint their honours thereof.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, private bills, notices of motions.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order No. 6, the hon. member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). Shall the order stand?

Some hon. Members: Stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Stand by unanimous consent.

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REPRESENTATION AND ELECTORAL DISTRICTS READJUSTMENT ACT (ONTARIO)

ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma) moved that Bill C-211, to readjust the representation of Ontario in the House of Commons and to readjust the electoral districts in Ontario, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

He said: Mr. Speaker, Bill C-211 before the House this afternoon in private members' hour essentially is designed to ensure that the representation of northern Ontario in this House of Commons would not drop below the 11 seats which now exist from that area of our country. It would set a lower