

*Government Orders**[English]*

Mr. John Duncan (North Island—Powell River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my Bloc colleague from Saint-Jean who just spoke in my view painted some scenarios essentially that do not exist and painted scenes of conflict where it does not exist.

We have talked on many occasions about a municipal style of self-government in committee and in this House. I also talk about it quite publicly.

• (1740)

We have a living example in the province of British Columbia with the Sechelt band. That form of self-government has proven for that particular band to be very progressive. It is what the people want and they are thriving under that form of self-government.

There is no reason to suggest that form of self-government would not be a very appropriate form of self-government in many other jurisdictions. I want to set the record straight in that area.

What we have heard here is the Quebec provincial agenda being promoted on the rest of Canada. The Bloc is not proving to be the steward of federal or other provincial resources. When I heard the member talking about James Bay what I heard was a promotion of 100 per cent provincial involvement in these issues. I find that to be a contradiction in terms as to what we are talking about today. Perhaps my colleague could offer some clarification in that area.

[Translation]

Mr. Bachand: Mr. Speaker, I want to tell my colleague who also sits on the aboriginal affairs committee that what I quoted the hon. member for Okanagan—Shuswap as saying is not intended to indicate that there is no possible application of the municipal model. I merely quoted the hon. member for Okanagan—Shuswap as saying that no aboriginal group should be given rights to self-government exceeding those of municipal governments.

If a municipal government model applies, as it seems to be the case with Sechelts, then it is fine. But I do not think it is appropriate to put First Nations on the same level as municipal governments. That is all. I did not reject the municipal model. I only rejected the terms used by the hon. member for Okanagan—Shuswap.

As for the James Bay case, I must reiterate that it continues to be a model according to me and to the Bloc Quebecois. The Canadian government did not invest any money in it. This was promoted directly by the Quebec government and I do not think we have some secret agenda that we would want to hide from the Reform Party. As we know, the Quebec government has close ties with them. They have their own way to deal with issues. Here, at the federal level, we do things differently.

We examine all proposals and legislation before us on their merit and, of course, sometimes we suggest amendments and sometimes we support some bills. We even sometimes reject legislation. But this does not mean that we have a secret agenda. We only want to work with the aboriginal people and to get the best results possible, based on mutual trust.

[English]

Mr. Ian McClelland (Edmonton Southwest, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, on debate rather than questions and comments, I would forego a moment of my time and ask the member for Saint-Jean, who was so effusive in his praise for the settlement in C-33 and C-34 I believe it was, that this legislation enables, if he would then use this as a model for a land settlement with the northern Quebec Cree on exactly the same terms, exactly the same conditions, exactly the same land base, exactly the same surface and subsurface rights and exactly the same money.

[Translation]

The Deputy Speaker: Since a question was asked before the hon. member began his speech, I will authorize the hon. member for Saint-Jean to answer.

• (1745)

Mr. Bachand: Mr. Speaker, I must admit that James Bay is indeed a model, but self-government cannot be applied everywhere from Halifax to Vancouver. We can see that a form of self-government respecting their past and their traditions is working for the Sechelt Band. Another formula was applied to the James Bay Crees and we can come up with yet another formula for Northern Quebec.

So, when we negotiate with the Northern Inuit, we will see how to apply self-government to their case by listening to what they have to say and what proposals they put forward during negotiations. Thus we will be in a position to react. I simply want to say to my colleague that there is no single way to implement self-government, there is no predetermined framework. Self-government is function of the tradition of the First Nations to whom it applies as well as of the climate that prevails in their negotiations with the governments.

[English]

Mr. McClelland: Mr. Speaker, could you tell me the time that I have.

The Deputy Speaker: The member has 20 minutes but there is a bell at six o'clock.

Mr. McClelland: Members of the Bloc are always quick to say what we should do, how we should do it and with whose money we should do it. However when it comes around to whether or not it is good for them, all of a sudden we see people slip and slide. It is absolutely amazing. We certainly cannot nail them down in the House on anything they would do. I congratulate them on their ability to tap dance around issues that have to be talked about, that have to be addressed. In fairness, when all