

Adjournment Debate

[Translation]

As you would know, Mr. Speaker, we already have a fair number of rather special holidays. Of course I have in mind those we celebrate on July 1 and June 24. The latter might be designated as well, for it would be an important day for a good many of us, particularly in the electoral riding I represent.

But what matters today is that members be allowed to show where they stand. The House ought not to let this bill drop to the bottom of the list. I think that if the bill is struck from the Order Paper, that is if members keep going until 6 o'clock and thus manage to talk it out, as we say, it makes it that much easier for the government to avoid a vote on an issue which many members consider important.

[English]

I will now ask the House to vote immediately and if no Conservative member rises, that means the government has the courage to vote on this issue, either for or against it. If the bill is talked out, Canadians can conclude just what kind of courage this particular government has. We will find out in a few seconds.

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to stand up and talk to this bill in spite of what my friend and colleague from across the way from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell has said to challenge me.

In the course of my comments, I was intending to say a number of things relating to the very fine speech given by the member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley, but I would like to refer to one comment he made before I deal with the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

I have a great deal of sympathy for the proposal that the hon. member has made, as have many of our colleagues over a number of years in the past made a similar proposal. The one thing that makes me want to hesitate has been alluded to by my friend from Red Deer. The one thing that makes me hesitate is this problem of productivity to which my hon. colleague opposite referred. If I could really be convinced in a day

and age such as now when the last figures I saw indicated that our labour unit production costs are going up and we are now somewhat beyond the United States of America in that area and losing our competitive edge with them, this would not be an appropriate time to bring in such a new holiday.

If the hon. member can study the concept of the law of diminishing returns, I would be interested to know what a study would be on this. I would think that we must have enough enterprising management people in this country who, over the last number of years, decided that they should give their employees more and more holidays in order to make them more and more productive. If that is not the case, maybe we should know what the figures are in that regard.

Finally, Mr. Speaker—and I probably have half a minute left—my friend from Glengarry, Prescott—Russell made a reference to the importance of this bill and the concepts of heritage. I want to remind him that when I first came in here about 15 years or so ago, it was a member from the Liberal Party who chose to help deny some of our heritage when they brought in a bill to do away with Dominion Day. I have never forgotten that. I was in the House. It was a Friday afternoon. I was very disappointed because that, to me, represents a great deal of our heritage—

• (1800)

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), this item is dropped from the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.