

Extension of Sittings

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): No, no, save it.

Mr. Mifflin: I want to talk now about other concerns we have in Bonavista—Trinity—Conception. We have concerns about the fisheries. We have concerns about the 50-odd subsidies which have already been earmarked under this deal such as piers, development programs and unemployment insurance. There are many more and some of them are very difficult to define.

I have to go back and explain to the people of Bonavista—Trinity—Conception that there was no time to define these subsidies or the results that will ensue downstream. This is of great concern to me and my constituents and, I would say, to Newfoundland as a whole, indeed all the Atlantic provinces. That is an indication of why there are so many of us on this side of the House today from that part of the world.

I also believe there is a need to address where we go from here. What do we do when all these things happen? What recourse do we have? Are we going to be able to look at the six-month clause and say it did not work and we are going to withdraw? I suggest that is not going to be a very easy thing to do. One of my constituents, when I explained this to assuage his fears, indicated that it is going to be a little bit like taking the egg out of the omelet; very, very difficult. That clause is not a panacea to the 226 communities in my riding or to the fishermen I represent or the other professions in my constituency.

Beyond that we have the issue of other Members of this House who are unable to express their concerns, particularly those new Members of whom I am one, their fears, and the apprehension of those who are watching this debate on television who do not perhaps understand some of the finer points of the rules of procedure. They do not understand why we cannot extend this until later in the year in order to have a better discussion.

Having been through the trials and tribulations, having understood more about what is involved in free trade as a result of the campaign in which many of the issues surfaced, we should now go on and have a more learned discussion in this House on the key issues that surfaced during the campaign. At least we would all be the wiser and be able to understand some of the things that would be discussed here in the House. Yet this does not seem to be the case. We do not seem to have the time and the opportunity to express these feelings.

It is my concern, indeed my fervent hope, that as the business of this House proceeds beyond the Free Trade

Agreement on to things like the nuclear submarine program and other issues of vital concern not only to the security of this country but the very well-being of all the people we represent, we will take cognizance of the rules of debate and the necessity for getting up and expressing our views, our feelings, and yes even our emotions. In that way there will be a full debate and an opportunity for a full display so that the mosaic of this country can serve as a backdrop for the tapestry of parliamentary democracy, so that people will feel their representatives have had a fair go in this House of Commons.

I am very pleased to have had this opportunity to speak here this evening and I look forward to speaking at further length, without being limited, about something that is this important now, in the immediate and the long-term future for me, my constituents, my children, and my children's children.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Duvernay): Mr. Speaker, it is the first time I rise in the House during this 34th Parliament, Mr. Speaker. I wish first of all to congratulate all my colleagues from this side of the House who spoke out for the first time today and let them know how great I thought they were. It is an extraordinary Quebec team which spoke out with a lot of enthusiasm and I am looking forward to four great years with them.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to express today my sincere gratitude to all my Duvernay constituents who have again put their trust in me for a second consecutive term. I should like also to thank all the business and working people in my riding who supported my Government and my party not only on free trade, but who expressed their satisfaction with the good things and prosperity they have enjoyed over the past four years.

I also want to thank the people of Saint-François, Pont Viau, Saint-Vincent de Paul, Auteuil, Vimont, and most specifically Duvernay which is the very heart of my riding.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to comment on the waste of time we have seen in the House since Monday, something my colleagues have already mentioned.

The *La Presse* newspaper carried an editorial this week by Mr. Dubuc, a known Montreal journalist, who remarked that the time wasted in Parliament had become a sort of procedural warfare. I think that this expression perfectly describes the situation. He also said that this type of manoeuvring has caused a loss of credibility.