

Supply

If we had been in government, there would have been changes to the Canada Labour Code. In the month of June, 1984 we should look very carefully at the behaviour of NDP members. Are they really the Party in this Chamber which has the most to gain in electoral terms if this piece of legislation does not pass? If that is true, what kind of behaviour would we expect? We would expect to find filibuster behaviour in terms of other pieces of legislation designed to choke the House and to ensure that before it adjourns there is not sufficient time for this particular piece of legislation to pass.

That hypothesis can be confirmed by those who happen to be addicts of *Hansard* and like to look at the pattern of speeches of Hon. Members and the amount of time spent. If that is the case, I guess today is kind of an exercise in hot air. Certainly the New Democratic Party House Leader and its Leader have the power to hold up this piece of legislation for the remaining 23 or 24 sitting days before the House adjourns. They can do it unobtrusively, by filibustering other pieces of legislation and not attacking this one directly, so that they can create an impression with the general public that they really want it passed when in fact they do not.

I wish to draw to the attention of the House that it is the Conservative Party of Canada which in the year 1984 has a Leader with a lifetime of experience with the labour movement. It is the Conservative Party of Canada which has a Leader which labour movement leaders and labour union leaders respect, know and understand. The labour union movement understands the importance of and need for health and safety regulations. It is the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada which has that kind of Leader. We do not have an academic from McGill law school such as the one who is leaving the leadership of the Liberal Party, someone who never got his two feet on the ground. Will he be replaced with a Bay Street lawyer who is part of the Canadian Pacific board of directors and receives \$15,000 per meeting? Will he be replaced with the petit gars from Shawinigan? Will we create a Prime Minister out of the current Leader of the New Democratic Party, another academic, a historian? Will we have after the next federal general election a government which is committed to the people?

That is to what a Conservative Government would be committed. We are committed to assisting people to maximize their talents, to maximize their energy and to maximize their creativity. That cannot be done from an academic, airy-fairy, ivory-towered perspective. That can be done by a Leader and by Members who have their feet on the ground, have lived in the real world, have been employees, have been labour union members, have been managers and investors. Those kinds of people, pragmatic and practical people, are what the country needs at all levels of the economy if we are to grow, eliminate poverty and have a fair deal for women. It is only the Conservative Party of Canada which provides the mix of talents, background and experience which the country needs.

I see that it is almost one o'clock. Since I have a few minutes remaining, perhaps I could continue after the luncheon break.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[*English*]

VISIBLE MINORITIES
REDRESS SOUGHT FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS INTERNED DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, my riding includes many hundreds of Canadians of Japanese ancestry who saw their homes, automobiles, and fishing boats confiscated during World War II. I have thus followed with considerable interest the renewed debate over compensation for these Canadians.

I disagree strongly with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who, some weeks ago, said that we should not try to correct the injustices of the past. Every injustice is technically a thing of the past the moment it is committed, but that does not absolve a Government from its obligation to right such injustice. I was also skeptical when the Prime Minister told the House that the Charter of Rights would prevent future Governments from taking such actions, in view of the fact that the Charter of Rights does not recognize the right to own and enjoy property. I thus asked the Library of Parliament to study this specific subject.

It is clear from the findings of the Library of Parliament that the lack of a property rights clause in the Charter of Rights seriously undermines its effectiveness in preventing the arbitrary confiscation of property by Governments. Some have said that because the War Measures Act overrides the Charter, a property rights clause would not help, but the Library of Parliament study indicates that a property rights clause would definitely discourage the illegal confiscation of property. I thus call on the Government not only to take steps to compensate Canadians of Japanese ancestry for this confiscation of their property, but also to add a clause to the Charter of Rights to ensure that future generations will have the right to the use and enjoyment of property.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.