

Parliament Hill

When we compete head-to-head with a giant and when we have legislation that is biased in favour of that giant at the expense of Canadian carriers, competition will be such that it will simply be impossible for Canadian carriers to compete in this very critical industry. That is why at this stage of the Bill, we are seriously concerned that it is flawed and the Government has not thought it through carefully enough. We want to make the point that when closure is eventually forced upon us and the Bill goes into committee, we will need to hold hearings across Canada so that those affected adversely by this legislation can and will be heard.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have a procedural question. It seems that this question and answer period turned into a debate between the Hon. Member and the Parliamentary Secretary. It would seem to me that that is a departure from past practice. I wonder if you would consider that and perhaps at an appropriate time make a ruling as to the appropriateness of such activity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is in fact correct. The Chair was trying to accommodate the House Leader of the New Democratic Party who had made comments and the Chair allowed the House Leader to make another comment, but the Chair recognizes that that was at the expense of the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus).

Is it the wish of the Hon. Member to call it five o'clock?

Mrs. Finestone: I was just going to suggest that we call it five o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall we call it five o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being five o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--MOTIONS

[Translation]

RIGHT HONOURABLE LESTER B. PEARSON

STATUE TO HONOUR HIS MEMORY

The House resumed from January 19 the debate on the motion of Mr. Boudria:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of honouring the memory of the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson by commissioning a statue of him to be placed on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Claude Lanthier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take part in the debate on this motion which I would like to read once more to the House:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of honouring the memory of the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson by commissioning a statue of him to be placed on Parliament Hill.

The Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes), my colleagues of the majority party and myself support wholeheartedly the notion of commissioning a statue to honour the memory of this illustrious Canadian. On January 19, the last time this motion was debated in the House, there was a slight misunderstanding as concerns the position of the members of the majority. I believe that this has now been cleared up and that my hon. friends opposite have had an opportunity to examine the report on statues honouring prime ministers of Canada and other commemorative works, which the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) tabled on behalf of the Minister today.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) has himself pointed out, he requested this report last fall because, in his opinion, an analysis of the policy and the tradition for such works could assist Parliamentarians in the examination of future commemorative projects, especially statues on Parliament Hill. As no new statue had been erected on Parliament Hill for many years, the experience acquired recently in the successful project to erect a statue honouring the memory of Prime Minister Diefenbaker was also an excellent opportunity to initiate a new process for such projects and make an objective examination of the existing situation.

One of the complaints most commonly heard is that often necessary information is not available to Parliament to make enlightened decisions concerning issues it is sometimes called upon to deal unexpectedly. The report tabled by the Minister of Public Works provides information, observations, useful data which, in my opinion at least, deserve our full attention.

Mr. Speaker, we must deal with the motion moved by the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria). I have every intention to support his motion as moved, if such is the desire of Hon. Members opposite. Partisanship should not enter into the consideration of a motion of this kind. The government Members have never intended to stoop to such low tactics.

In view of the information now available, I believe, however, that Mr. Pearson would be bestowed an honour still more worthy of his name if, during the next few weeks, we took the time to ponder upon all the aspects of this project of a commemorative statue. This is not an attempt at delaying or filibustering this project; quite the contrary, as you will see today. However, it is intended rather to consider the matter with all necessary information available for the best possible results.

One of the first points to consider is that Prime Minister St. Laurent's statue was erected, at Prime Minister Trudeau's, own suggestion in front of the Supreme Court building rather than on Parliament Hill. The selection of that particular location is obvious in view of Mr. St. Laurent's fame as a jurist, lawyer, law professor, president of the Quebec Bar and Minister of Justice. Prime Minister Trudeau did not feel at the time, I am sure, that the Supreme Court location was any less prestigious than any other spot on Parliament Hill. He had no