

Motion for Adjournment

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the hon. member goes off in a new direction, I would like to remind him that he should restrict his observations to the motion now before us.

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, up to now, we have always observed the rules and I thank you for your observations. I will submit to your decision because we have heard many speeches and I shall not be long. I would have a number of remarks to make but since the rules must be observed, I shall cut them short. If we have not had the time to do all that should have been done, the motion of the New Democratic party must wait, as other things wait.

Therefore, let us wait, let us keep on going as we were before, let us keep on waiting and, during all that time, the people will manage as they can. As far as we are concerned, we still have the satisfaction, or the pleasure, to have done our duty at least during the session.

We have felt some after-effects, and we have followed the rules of the house. We have done all we could. I am glad to have done my duty, to have done only what was possible. I would have liked to do better yet and I think that all the members are in the same situation. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and all the hon. members. If we have not done everything, at least we have done something, and we wish that the people will benefit therefrom as much as possible.

[*English*]

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to say to the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) that I listened with interest to what he said this morning—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If I remember this morning's proceedings the minister has already taken part in this debate. Is he now rising on a point of order?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Not on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I was rising to tell the hon. member that I will see to it that the matter he raised is brought to the attention of the ministers concerned as quickly as possible.

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make just one or two comments on the motion now before the house. I would like to suggest that the discussion we have already had on it and on the amendment that was proposed evidenced very clearly the desirability and necessity of passing the motion. It seems to me that if we took

a recess we would be in far better humour following our return to proceed with the business of the house and deal with it in a much better way.

However, Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out that we all share the concern for superannuated civil servants. It is not limited to just a few members or to one or two parties. It is shared by all of us.

I had the opportunity of being a member of the committee to which reference has been made. I know there is keen disappointment at the fact that the committee's report has not been acted upon and legislation introduced to take care of this urgent problem. I think that today we have been engaged in an exercise in futility and that the time has come to make a decision on this motion.

I do not believe that the motion and the amendment proposed are the best way to deal with a situation like this. Many of us would have liked to add further qualifying phrases. For instance, we have been urging the absolute necessity of introducing legislation to deal with veterans' allowances, particularly the allowances to dependants of veterans. There are many categories of pensioners and I do not think it is wise to concentrate on one category and by this method try to force the government into action.

A few days ago we postponed until today debate on a most important matter, namely, the agreements reached in the Kennedy round of trade negotiations. Time is now running out and apparently that important matter is not going to receive too much attention today. While we are sympathetic to the objections which have been raised to an adjournment at this time, we believe it is urgently desirable that the motion should now pass. For that reason we intend to support it.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words about this matter because I am concerned about the statement made by the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Benson) this morning and about what was said by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister. Both these ministers made it very clear that there had been no commitment made by the government that increases in retired civil servants' pensions would be implemented this year. From what they have said I wonder whether the government intends to implement this measure at any time. We all enjoy listening to the Secretary of State for External Affairs,