

afraid to bring in full and total collective bargaining rights and unionization rights for the employees of the House of Commons? They tend to hang their hats on that old thing called parliamentary privilege, as if we are supreme gods in the House of Commons and whatever we say goes. They seem to think that if workers have the right to collective bargaining and grievance procedures, suddenly our sacred privileges go out the window. That is a bunch of crap, a bunch of bunk; it is about time we called a spade a spade. It does not even happen in Margaret Thatcher's Britain, yet it happens in the boy from Baie Comeau's Canada. It is an utter national disgrace. I call upon Members of Parliament to ensure that the 3,000 employees of this place are given the right to collective bargaining and the right to have some say over their working conditions, health and safety, and hiring procedures.

I have been in the House for almost 18 years. I have heard story after story about how people sometimes get jobs in this place and how they are pushed around. Mr. Speaker, if you want some evidence of this, go to the Library and listen to some of the tapes which were dictated by Lloyd Francis, a former Speaker of the House, some of which were released to the press about seven months or eight months ago. In them this former distinguished Speaker of the House talked about sexual harassment where some women had to disrobe to qualify for their jobs. He talked about nepotism, about the fact that it is who you know and not what you know which got you a job in this place over the years. He talked about all kinds of other things that go on in the hiring of staff for the House of Commons. This was former Speaker Lloyd Francis. I know that from experience because we have heard these stories year in and year out.

• (1210)

I call upon the Conservative Party to make sure we have full collective bargaining rights for the employees of this place. It is not only the Parliament of Great Britain that has collective bargaining and trade unions in its Parliament. In fact, the employees there have the right to strike. That is Margaret Thatcher's Britain. In some of our provincial legislatures, for example in Saskatchewan, the employees have their own unions and collective bargaining process. Why can't we do it here? Why do we insist on being dinosaurs in the 1980s? That is beyond me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Parry: It is a Tory Government.

Mr. Nystrom: It is a Tory Government. The answer comes from the Hon. Member for Kenora—Rainy River (Mr. Parry). Even Margaret Thatcher has given these rights to the employees. I see a friend of mine in the Conservative Party agrees with me. Why can't the boy from Baie Comeau do the same thing, Mr. Speaker?

Bill C-45 does not go far enough. It is only a partial loaf. I wish Members of the Conservative Party would rear up on their hind legs and rebel a little bit. They should exercise a little bit of their authority and show the Prime Minister (Mr.

Mulroney)—maybe we do not have four-legged Tories, I withdraw that—that they are not going to tolerate the kinds of laws that do not allow employees of the House of Commons to unionize in 1986.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, we have 3,000 employees in the House of Commons. They do not have the right to collective bargaining. They are not entitled to negotiate their salaries. They are not entitled to negotiate a number of items dealing with benefits, pensions and so on and so forth.

Mr. Speaker, this is 1986, not 1886. Now is the time to act, to let employees of the House of Commons have their rights. Mr. Speaker, in England under Margaret Thatcher, employees have the right to strike, they have unions, and we can do exactly the same thing here.

[English]

I call upon Members of the Conservative Party to do a little bit of rebelling, repent their past sins, as the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) would say.

Mr. Nickerson: We don't have any sins.

Mr. Nystrom: The Member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Nickerson) says "We don't have any sins". I would like him to defend the system. I am quoting Margaret Thatcher. It must be getting really bad when a socialist has to quote Margaret Thatcher as evidence. I don't even like Margaret Thatcher but that shows how bad it is, having to say that Margaret Thatcher is setting a good example.

An Hon. Member: It shows you are growing.

Mr. Nystrom: Why can't the Conservatives in Canada come at least as far as Margaret Thatcher by allowing basic, fundamental democratic rights to the employees of the House of Commons? I hope some of them will tell us why they do not allow employees of this place to have their fundamental democratic rights. Why in 1986 should our employees not have the right to collective bargaining for their salaries? Why should the employees of the House of Commons not have the right to collective bargaining, *vis-à-vis* staffing? Why should they not have that kind of right?

We allow those kinds of rights for other workers, thank goodness. Why not right here in the House of Commons? It is an absolute disgrace in 1986 to treat the employees of the House of Commons, as we do in many ways, in a master-slave type of relationship. I hope we can get some Conservative Members of Parliament to explain today why they will not join those of us in the Opposition and change the system that dates back to 1896.

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take part in this debate to say how much I regret that the Government did not accept the motion presented by my colleague for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) asking for a one month hoist of