

Motions

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Chair must admit to not having heard such words, otherwise the Chair would have intervened right away. On the other hand, when he rose the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary did say that if he said anything unparliamentary, he was withdrawing. That I did hear very well so I think that should settle the matter for the time being. The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor has the floor.

Mr. Riis: Until we see the "blues" at least.

Mr. Langdon: Regardless of whether or not the Parliamentary Secretary said "most" or "all", and I certainly heard him say "all", I want to make a very important point. The Government used to say this was a country of small communities. Now it says this is a country where expertise, by and large, rests in Ottawa. I say precisely the opposite. The expertise with respect to the fish processing and what will happen to it as a consequence of this trade deal, and therefore the details of the legislation as it deals with fish processing, rests with people who are involved in that industry in British Columbia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and the rest of Atlantic Canada.

The same is true when we talk about the agricultural parts of this deal. It is absolutely bizarre to hear the Conservative Party, which at one stage went off to Prince Albert because it felt that was where it should seek expertise with respect to agricultural concerns, now says no, it is not necessary.

● (1610)

This is a deal which will profoundly change the nature of agriculture in this country in the future. Yet, is the Conservative Government now prepared to go to Prince Albert? Is it prepared to go to Regina? Is it prepared to go to Calgary? Is it prepared to go to Winnipeg? No, the expertise is centred here in Ottawa. That is the Conservative view which indicates very clearly that after four years in power the arrogance of Ottawa has taken over what used to be at least some clear thinking in some parts of the Conservative Party.

It is regrettable that that last perspective should have been put forward, not by a back-bencher who somehow got caught up in the great enjoyments of the capital city, but by a Parliamentary Secretary, in fact one from the West, who is supposed to be able to reflect the Government's views.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but the time for questions and comments has expired.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, we are debating a motion that the committee be allowed to travel. The Member brings up the issue of democracy. We have witnessed for several months now continued attempts by the tyranny of the minority. The Member talks about visiting the country and representing constituents. Every

single Member sitting across the way comes from a riding in which the majority of the people say yes to free trade.

Mr. Riis: False, absolutely false.

Mr. Hawkes: The New Democratic Party represents union bosses from a few very strong unions in this country. They do not represent the people of this country.

Mr. Riis: That's false, it's not true.

Mr. Hawkes: When the election comes they will find out. We should have a going away party for the NDP Members in this Chamber because they are not coming back, and that is because they are not playing square with the Canadian people.

Mr. Riis: Absolutely false.

Mr. Hawkes: They have lost their roots, those Prairie roots in which the movement began which was in touch with the small people of this nation. Now they represent the rich union bosses who drive Cadillacs. That is the view they express in this Chamber day after day.

They talk about dinosaurs.

Mr. Riis: You're one.

Mr. Hawkes: A lot of people in this caucus are proud to be dinosaurs. That is the emblem for the football team of the university where I come from. Dinosaurs are important to our history. Dinosaurs died on behalf of the oil industry a long time ago. Without the dinosaurs we would not have the oil and the energy potential we do have.

The New Democratic Party reminds me of another animal. It is spelled s-l-o-t-h. A sloth sleeps a lot and hangs upside down by its tail. It looks at the world from an upside down point of view. That is what the NDP is all about. It looks at the world upside down. The modern world is passing it by.

Mr. Riis: Have you checked the polls recently, Jim?

Mr. Hawkes: This House has approved, in two separate ways and on two separate occasions, the idea of the trade deal. After four years we need to explain it to them. The vote in favour on second reading is agreement in principle with the proposed legislation.

Mr. Orlikow: Be honest for a change. Tell us how you closed up the House by ringing the bells for 16 days.

Mr. Hawkes: That is behind us, Madam Speaker. This House and the elected people, of whom I am one, have approved the free trade agreement and approved this legislation in principle. The committee's job is to examine the fine print.

Mr. Orlikow: Tell the truth.

Mr. Hawkes: Does the fine print accord with the agreement?