

Government Orders

I compliment the treaty commissioner, Mr. Cliff Wright, the chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the premier of the province of Saskatchewan, all those who worked for the various jurisdictions who are parties to this agreement and I thank you, Madam Speaker, for facilitating the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, I have just a few words in conclusion on this important bill.

It has been brought to my attention that despite the fact that I had the list in front of me, I inadvertently missed naming two of the chiefs who have been important to the conclusion of this process and reside within the boundaries of the constituency I represent. Chief Wayne Standinghorn from the Sweetgrass band and Chief Blaine Favel from the Poundmaker band have also been very active chiefs with their councils in the development of this process.

It has also occurred to me that because this process has been a long one, there are numerous individuals who have represented their band members, either as councilors or chiefs through this process, who are no longer directly associated with their councils.

Some chiefs have chosen not to run in new elections. Some members of council have chosen not to run, or have been asked by their respective bands to have a bit of a holiday as it is sometimes referred to in this place.

I want to pay my respects to those chiefs and council members who are no longer currently serving their bands in elective capacities but have played significant roles in bringing their bands and band memberships into this process. Their contributions are as great as any of those who are still in office.

At the same time I do want to indicate that I am aware there are conflicts within some of the bands. I am aware some of the bands are anxious to resolve other significant issues such as housing, which I mentioned earlier. I am very anxious to see that issue resolved and I commit myself to work with the bands, chiefs, councils and band members to help resolve some of these outstanding issues in the weeks, months and perhaps years to come.

• (1250)

Taxation is a major issue that I am personally committed to. A tremendous amount of work has been done in the past that has been allowed to drift somewhat with regard to aboriginal people living on reserve with disabilities. These people face challenges that many of us will never be able to fully understand or appreciate. We must meet the needs of the physically challenged who live on reserve and commit resources that will be of greater assistance to them.

I am pleased that this process has concluded here today and I thank the minister and members of the House for all the work they have contributed to the process.

Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, it has been my pleasure to work on the passage of this important piece of legislation, Bill C-104. There is a clear indication of a commitment to land resources and jurisdiction. To me those three elements are fundamental to people becoming self-determining. They are the foundation for self-government. I just want to congratulate all those people and wish them the best in their future endeavours.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Taylor: Point of order, Madam Speaker. I wonder if it would be in the interest of the House to call it one o'clock and begin the debate on Bill C-103 immediately following Question Period.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The House has heard the suggestion by the hon. member.

Is there consent to call it one o'clock?

Mr. Reid: Madam Speaker, I think we are prepared to call it one o'clock. I think the bill that has been passed this morning is very important. I think Bill C-103 will pass with somewhat the same sense of decency and urgency. We are intending to refer it to committee, so I think the intent is that each party will have one speaker and we will go on so we can move into orders of the day.