

they have been successful in meeting the needs not just of Islanders but of all Canadians. We are full partners in Confederation. As Canadians we want to realize our social and economic objectives, whether we are talking about energy, the need for job creation, the need to strengthen and develop our resources or the need to have our rights protected and the need for guarantees in that respect. We share those needs with other Canadians.

The people of my riding are resourceful people. We make our living on farms, in fishing boats, in tourist establishments, and in the small business enterprises which exist throughout my constituency. During the recent byelection campaign I made a commitment to the people of Cardigan, and I repeat that commitment here today. It is a commitment to represent their needs and interests as best I can, and to ensure that federal policies and programs recognize and respond to their needs and interests.

As a former provincial politician I would not be here today if I did not believe that there are opportunities to reflect our goals at the federal level as well as at the provincial level. The people of Cardigan, like the later member who represented them so well, recognize and meet their responsibilities as Canadians. My goal as a member of Parliament is to ensure that the people of my constituency are provided opportunities, not through charity or the largesse of a remote federal government but by a government in which they are full participants.

Since becoming a member of this House, and as a former legislator in the provincial legislature for a few years, I have always been an admirer of the parliamentary system and particularly an admirer of what I call the Mother of Parliaments in Canada, the House of Commons. In the short time since my becoming a member of this House I have followed attentively the performance and the actions in the House of more senior and experienced members on both sides in the hope that I might use some of them as models, learn by the mistakes of others and, in essence, do the best job possible on behalf of the constituents I represent. However, over the past month there have been events in this House which have left me wondering somewhat about the parliamentary process. Just a couple of weeks ago there seemed to be a very clear indication that this House would adjourn on or about July 10.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): My God, you just got here.

Mr. Campbell (Cardigan): Yes, I realize that, but that is not my fault. We arrived at the date of Friday, July 10, only to be advised by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) that the House would not be allowed to adjourn until the mail was travelling again. I wondered why the Leader of the Opposition took that position. Since that time I have found out that he was pressured into that position by some of his backbench members.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Campbell (Cardigan): As a result the Leader of the Opposition took the position that this House should not adjourn until the issue of the mail service in our country was

resolved, as if to suggest to members of the House and to all Canadians that to adjourn the House would in some way seriously impair the ability of the Government of Canada and this House to address the issue if it was not resolved through regular means.

● (2310)

I have the greatest respect for the hon. Leader of the Opposition, but I am sure a man of his experience knows the difference between the word "adjourn" and the word "pro-rogue". He knows that if it is necessary to recall the House after adjournment it is a very simple matter, but he suggested that the House should continue in session until the mediator had an opportunity to attempt to bring the two parties together and to resolve the dispute by normal means. I can understand the Leader of the Opposition interpreting the word "adjourn" in a much longer time-frame than most hon. members. One need only return to 1979 when the same Leader of the Opposition was elected Prime Minister of the country in May, and took almost five months to call the House into session on October 9. That is an indication of his interpretation of the word "adjourn".

In the meantime, I sat back and listened to the debate of the last week and a half. I sympathized with the Leader of the Opposition for the impossible situation in which his members placed him. The hon. member who spoke prior to myself talked about a smokescreen. I suggest to him that the smokescreen is not on this side; it is over there.

After being pressed into a position of initiating a filibuster on the postal strike, the Leader of the Opposition found himself with his knees kicked out from under him, so to speak, because progress was made with the appointment of a mediator. Then he was forced to find another issue to delay the House. Thus came the great cover up, or what has been discussed over the last week as the uranium cartel! As time proceeded, the motion to adjourn was placed before the House for debate. The motion was put a few days ago. The Leader of the Opposition found himself completely boxed in, because he had made a commitment to Canadians to keep the House going until the postal issue was settled. He knew full well that Canadians understood that a motion to adjourn would merely close the House until such time as it was necessary to recall Parliament to take whatever action necessary for the matter to be resolved.

I followed the debate very closely, but this morning I was completely baffled because the Leader of the Opposition, who all this week indicated opposition to the motion to adjourn, suddenly found himself with the majority of his members interested in going home. Thus, he had to find an out.

When the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) introduced a motion to adjourn this morning, the Leader of the Opposition and the members of his party, if they were really interested in coming back next week, would have stood up and supported it. All members knew that the motion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre was that the House should adjourn today and come back on Monday. If