

Motion under S.O. 75C

Hon. members have to read Standing Order 75A and 75B before they read 75C. But with the way this government does things, it thinks C is A and A is C. During the existence of this parliament how often has the government come forward with any meaningful negotiations with the House leaders of the opposition parties so as to arrive at some reasonable agreement on the allocation of time? The only kind of negotiation that the government enters into is for the government House leader to stand in his place and to put a proposition to the opposition, to which they have only the alternative of saying yes or no on very short notice. There is no negotiation on the part of the government. It is incapable of understanding what the term means. It is the most arrogant, self-centred cabinet which thinks it has only to account unto itself, and sitting behind the cabinet is a bunch of people who do not have the intestinal fortitude to stand up and be heard.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: What is preventing these members getting up, if they feel strongly about legislation, at any time during the course of second reading and saying where they stand on the issue? Where do they stand, for example, on this piece of legislation? We now have Standing Order 75C brought in and they know what that means.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I think it is a good thing for some of us occasionally to get away from this institution for a few days so that we can put this place in perspective. I have had the opportunity recently to be away from here as part of a parliamentary delegation and having returned I think that some objective perspective of this place is necessary.

I am afraid government backbenchers are simply not being candid with us when they proclaim that they do not have an opportunity to speak. This legislation deals with the most pressing social issue in our country today, namely unemployment. I am just amazed when the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) says that we have had 19 members or that we are going to have 30 members talk about this issue of unemployment. I hear hon. members opposite wailing, and gnashing their teeth, but in all seriousness if any member on the other side feels that unemployment is not the most pressing social issue in the country today I would like him to stand up in the House and say so, instead of hooting and howling.

I want to conclude by saying that government is not parliament and parliament is not government. We have the right and the responsibility, as members of parliament representing every part of the country, to speak out on the important issues facing us. When the minister comes forward and throttles that opportunity, he does a disservice not only to this institution but to his own office.

● (2010)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I take the floor at the invitation of the previous speaker and say to him

[Mr. Hnatyshyn.]

that it is with pride that, as a democrat and legislator, I shall support this motion because I feel that the subject has been debated enough to allow responsible people, whose purpose is not to filibuster but to pass laws, to take a stand on the bill now before us.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the two objectives of this bill are matters of priority and that it is urgent that the bill be passed. I think the integration of the unemployment insurance and manpower services is necessary and urgent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order. The hon. member for Lapointe should perhaps refer to the motion before the House and the time limit imposed on the debate . . .

Mr. Marceau: Mr. Speaker, I want to express my opinion precisely in the sense of the motion for putting an end to the debate; it is imperative that we should put a stop to the debate and discussions, which are controversial, I agree, but which still delay the eventual implementation of an act as important as that through which unemployment insurance and manpower services would be fused and new unemployment insurance standards would become more equitable for the population as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that after several hours of debate, time has come to move second reading of the bill to allow all hon. members to make suggestions for making the bill more favourable to the majority of citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I think the time has come for us, as members of parliament, to come to a consensus. On both sides, there is talk this evening of consensus . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It being 8.14 p.m., the two hours provided for the consideration of the motion now before the House under the provisions of Standing Order 75C have expired. Accordingly, under the terms of the Standing Order it is my duty to put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the motion now before the House.

[*Translation*]

The House has heard the terms of Mr. Cullen's motion. All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): In my opinion the yeas have it.

● (2020)

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Call in the members.