

Government Orders

I ask you, does it make sense to you, Mr. Speaker? It certainly does not make sense to us on this side of the House, because this proposed agreement is such a vital issue that yesterday the Secretary of State for External Affairs tabled a special paper dealing with the question of issues that relate to the impact on workers on the part of this proposed agreement.

Mr. Speaker, evidently there is a lot we do not know, a lot at stake, and a lot, therefore, that ought to be discussed in public, with the public interest in mind.

You can see, therefore, that I am concluding, in this analysis, that I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that it is actually the height of irresponsibility to adjourn now. It is the wrong time for closing down the Parliament of Canada at this juncture, for the variety of reasons I have given you in the course of my presentation.

What we can see here is a decision to govern by decree by a government that is giving signs of profound tiredness, that is running out of ideas, and that is, in a sense, conveying the wrong message to the public, something the government should never do no matter what its political stripe. The government is conveying the notion that it is letting the public interest down because it does not want Parliament to sit.

Therefore, this is a sad day for parliamentary democracy at a very difficult time and a very difficult moment in Canadian history.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand up in the House and wind up this session of Parliament and to speak for my party, the New Democratic Party, hopefully expressing some of the wishes, the visions, the frustrations, and the hopes of many Canadians.

Before I came into the House today, someone asked me what I could say about this government that is positive. I said I was sure that, if I thought deeply enough and for a little while, I would be able to think of something positive. I can think of a lot of positive things about Canada. I am very positive about Canada and about Canadians.

I must say that, if you examine what the Throne Speech said a couple of years ago and the blueprint it drew for this government and for Canada, and if you look at where we are now, I think the government has failed miserably in the economic area and in the constitutional area. I want to highlight that point in my speech.

I think we have seen economic and constitutional mismanagement on a grand scale, to the point where our very country is in danger. This is very serious indeed. We need an alternate vision in this country, a public policy, in both the constitutional area and in the economic area. In a sense, they are both intertwined and I want to speak about them in my speech.

I have said this before, during the Meech Lake debate, and hope to say so again this summer and especially next year, when the constitutional debate will heat up. We need an activist federal government to keep this country together. We need a federal government that will show the greatness that is there for Canada, both in English and in French, and to provide for the blossoming and exploding native culture and reality in this country, which is a good thing, and the new multicultural element of the new peoples who are of neither English nor French background and have come to this country.

This country is on the move, but this government is not. This government is mired in an ideological past.

I want to say one thing before I get into some concrete examples such as the free trade deal with Mexico, which we have discussed in this House during the last couple of weeks, or the aerospace deal, involving the loss of a major company, which we discussed in the House of Commons today in Question Period, or indeed one of the events that occurred this week in the House, namely, the re-ratting, if you like, of a Bloc Quebecois member back to the government ranks, and I want to say something about that.

• (1240)

I actually see the Minister of Justice in the House, so perhaps I could take a bit of crack there.

Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre): Don't let me cramp your style.

Mr. Waddell: Then I want to finish by talking a little about what we members have to do for our constituents in the months that lie ahead while Parliament is not sitting.

First of all, I want to say something about the changes to the rules of Parliament. I know we have had a long debate on this issue, and the issue has been settled. But I warn the government and I say to my fellow Canadians that it keeps restricting the rights of Parliament and keeps cutting it back. We all suffer in the long run because Parliament is still the one institution in this