

*Government Orders*

give us an explanation, because he added something else in his speech when he talked about the silence plot on Meech. I have never heard about such a plot. The hon. member and myself were members of the same caucus; we got the same informations and, as far as I know, everybody was aware of what the Meech Lake Accord meant.

So, I would ask him to clarify, for the members of this House, and for the Canadians that are listening, if there is still some at this time, what he meant by this silence plot on Meech.

[English]

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, my friend, who is a very conscientious member, has asked me a very serious question. Actually, there are many parts to this. I used his name because I heard his earlier intervention when he commented about Meech Lake and said that this was a denial of English-speaking Canada against Meech Lake. That is really why I mentioned the name of my colleague earlier. It was not a denial of English-speaking Canada against Meech Lake. As he says, there were 97 per cent of Canadians, representing all the provinces except one, and then there was Manitoba in between that were sort of for Meech Lake. But the conspiracy of silence was very definite. And if the hon. member does not understand that by now, then that is part of the problem with the Conservative caucus. There was an agreement between the Prime Minister, the then leader of the Liberal Party and the then leader of the NDP. Those two have changed. I can tell you I sat just about where the member was sitting, only about two seats up in the corner, and I sat there for two days to make sure that we at least had a debate on the motion to refer the Meech Lake matter to a joint committee that sat in the summer. That is what I mean about the conspiracy.

Don Johnson, the former member from Westmount, or wherever it was, by this time, was out of the Liberal Party. He was seated around here. Now he happens to be president of the Liberal Party, but that is immaterial. He and I, and I was here longer than he, I have to say, in terms of my attendance in the House, tried to force a restricted debate. We have had a better debate already on this motion and more participants than we had on the Meech Lake proposal, if you will check *Hansard*.

[Translation]

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions between the parties and I believe that the House will give its unanimous consent to the following proposal.

[English]

I move:

That the debate be allowed to continue until no further member rises in debate, at which time the question will be deemed to have been put on the subamendment and the subamendment will be deemed to have carried on division, following which the question will be deemed to have been put on the amendment, as amended, and the amendment, as amended, will be deemed to be carried on division, following which the question will be put on the main motion and the question will be deemed to have been put and deferred for a formal division tomorrow at three o'clock p.m., following which Mr. Speaker will adjourn the House; during the time from the adoption of this motion until the adjournment, there will be no dilatory motions or quorum calls receivable by the Chair.

I am not suggesting that all of the motion is in order, but I would reserve any arguments on that point to another day. I suggest that we proceed as outlined, and I think that that would find agreement throughout the House.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The members have heard the terms of the motion. Is it agreed?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** So ordered.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. You were about to recognize the hon. member from Winnipeg—Bird's Hill. I just wanted to point out to the House, as we are debating the Constitution, with the clock going past midnight, the hon. member who came to this House as a young man at the age of 27, just turned 40, and has just turned middle aged with the Constitution.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I congratulate the hon. member from Bird's Hill who is now transferred to Winnipeg—Transcona. A very happy birthday.

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me that time that I needed to rise to my feet. Thank you also, to the members of the House for their good wishes.