

Mr. Hogue: —a team that can help our country move forward.

The Opposition, which seems to believe that its role is to oppose, is unfortunately spreading falsehoods. In every society, the Opposition's job is to promote debate, not to act as if it were at the helm. It seems to me that the Opposition resorts to demagoguery when it claims that more than 50 per cent of the population voted against free trade.

Some Hon. Members: That is untrue.

Mr. Hogue: One cannot with impunity, Mr. Speaker, distort the rules of democracy. Either we abide by the percentage of votes or by the number of Members elected. And according to the rules of our democracy, the number of Members elected is what enables a party to take power and govern.

Since the Free Trade Agreement is a treaty, it allows both parties, over a certain period of time, to normalize their relations. There can be no security in the absence of standards, procedures and limits. The same thing goes for this House, which can only function because it abides by standards and procedures. One can always indulge in histrionics and tear up pages in a book, but if the Members respect each other, they will treat this book as it should be and they will obey the rules of procedure instead of constantly bypassing them.

It is therefore, as I was saying, through standards that a people can increase its security and the Canadian people will be more secure because it will no longer depend on the whims of a huge country like our good neighbour to the south.

The people of the riding of Outremont voted for free trade because the wider the border is open the easier it will be for all cultural entities to benefit from unrestricted economic and financial exchanges. People will have more disposable income. Canadians, individually and collectively, will stand to benefit from the freer flow of consumer goods.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that Canadians deserve this kind of treatment, and I do not think that Canadians should have to put up with the kind of incidents we have been witnessing in the House over the last few days. As a new Member of the House, I have learned that there are, to use an English expression, losers as well as winners.

It seems to me that some of our colleagues rise to express a feeling of mistrust, as if Canada stands to lose under this treaty.

Extension of Sittings

I would suggest that the Progressive Conservative Party and its Members are taking a more constructive approach, and this is why we fully support this initiative and look forward to debating such a challenging issue.

In university lecture rooms we can see how democracy works. A lecture room is not unlike this House, but after a while the students accept the authority, they get in step with the kind of authority as expressed by the vote of the people. Mr. Speaker, there have been enough speeches, the people brought the Conservative Party back into office and gave it a mandate to administer the country, so we should not waste too much time listening to demagogic comments which, as I said earlier, do not lead us anywhere.

Mr. Speaker, whatever their cultural background, I think that the people of the riding of Outremont want free trade. I must be their spokesman in this House and suggest that we ought to launch a more constructive debate at the earliest opportunity.

• (1710)

[English]

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I was elected in Mission—Coquitlam by people who oppose the trade deal. It is true that the Conservatives won the majority of seats in this House and that they formed the Government. But I believe, as many Canadians believe, that they did not win the hearts and minds of all Canadians.

What the Government's motion does is to suspend the rules and to make a mockery of what Parliament is all about. This Government is mocking those Canadians who voted for any other political Party but Tory. The Government is mocking Canadians in 126 ridings who said no to the deal and yes to Canada. The Government is mocking new Members of Parliament who came to Ottawa to represent seriously and thoughtfully their constituents. The Government, through its wheeling and dealing, is in fact frustrating the established system of parliamentary democracy and the established rules of order.

New Members in all parts of this House are struggling. We arrived two weeks ago to absolute chaos. We had no offices, no telephones—indeed there are still Members without offices and telephones—no staff, and no briefing on parliamentary process. Now, as new Members, we struggle to work our way through this book, the *Standing Orders of the House of Commons*.