

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. Speaker, I could list several other questions. I have suggested seven questions concerning areas which in my humble opinion could be discussed, among the government and public servants. We could bring in all the unions and ask whether the legislation which we enacted years ago has been working properly. We could ask what changes should be made and there could be a real exchange without giving up the elementary right of government to have the final say in the decision made. But I think the government must also recognize that you cannot deal with employees on a one-sided basis and simply tell them what is what. It cannot be done outside the public service of Canada and I suggest you cannot use that approach inside the public service either.

I have 30 seconds left, Mr. Speaker, and I hope you will permit me to speak for that time because the parliamentary secretary has come here tonight at great expense to his wife. This is their twenty-fourth wedding anniversary. We wish them well. I have a little bit of poetry written out. I wish I could read my writing; that is the problem.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): All's well that ends well.

Mr. McCleave: There must be some way for me to read this writing.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Love's labour lost.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired. Possibly he can meet the parliamentary secretary after the adjournment.

Mr. Alastair Gillespie (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I hope you will permit me to say how disappointed I am that the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) is not able to read his writing. He has developed a great reputation in this House, and elsewhere, as a bard. In fact, he might be described as the unsung poet laureat of

the House of Commons. I remember an occasion last year when he was serving on a committee. He received a brief from a publishing house concerning matters of rhyme. In committee he put all his questions to the particular witness in rhyme. He met rhyme with rhyme.

The hon. member for Halifax-East Hants is a man who seldom rants. He is a bold politician and a great debater, respected by all sooner than later. I listened with great concern to the seven points which he raised. On reflection he might agree that these points are better not formally answered on this occasion. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Lang) announced on February 12—that the government was undertaking a review of the Public Service Staff Relations Act—and that the review would be carried out under his direction. The minister invited all interested parties, including employee organizations, to express their views and recommendations. He pointed out as follows:

—the intention is to provide a vehicle whereby the views of interested parties can be coordinated and assessed in order that the government may clearly identify areas of concern and determine if revision of the act is required.

In other words, the process is well under way and it would be inappropriate at this time to say anything of a formal nature. After the review has been completed I assure the hon. member that the government will consider whether legislation should be proposed to Parliament. If it is decided to present new legislation it will be necessary to consider the time when such proposal should be put forward, as well as the nature of possible amendments. As the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) stated on June 9, the government will certainly consider, at he appropriate time, referring to a parliamentary committee any legislative proposals which it may put forward.

In closing, I should like to thank the hon. member for his good wishes on this very important occasion in my life.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.41 p.m.