

PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT ACT**AMENDMENT RESPECTING DISPLAY OF POLITICAL SIGNS AT RESIDENCE**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-277, to amend the Public Service Employment Act (political partisanship).

An hon. Member: Explain.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Employment Act prohibits federal civil servants from taking part in most political activities. However, it is made clear that they have the right to attend political meetings, contribute funds to candidates or parties and apply for leave to run for nomination as a candidate. My bill would extend these rights to include the right to erect posters or signs at one's place of residence.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the sitting be suspended this day until the call of the Chair.

I have in mind that Royal Assent is possible later this day—

Mr. McGrath: They would not dare.

Mr. MacEachen: —and I am making this suggestion, which Your Honour might put in proper form so that it will be possible for us to reassemble, in the event that there is Royal Assent.

Mr. Speaker: The proper procedure would be to inquire if there is agreement.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Baldwin: On division.

Mr. Speaker: The sitting of the House will stand suspended until the call of the bells.

I might indicate to hon. members that if they care to join the Speaker in room 16, I will be delighted to extend to them my welcome.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted, publicly in the House, on behalf of my party to wish Your Honour a very Happy New Year and to say how much we have enjoyed participating under your wise and intelligent leadership, a leadership exercised despite the problems you have had to overcome.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may we of this party join most heartily in this wish to you and Madame Lamoureux, and we extend it also to all members of the House.

• (12:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I extend to Your Honour our best wishes for a Happy New Year and congratulate you for you have shown skill and equity in presiding over House proceedings.

I also wish to take this opportunity to wish a Happy New Year to all our colleagues in the House.

[English]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I add my remarks of joy, and say that I am satisfied because at last the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) has taken a positive and constructive initiative this morning. May I add my good wishes to his.

[Translation]

The time has come, Mr. Speaker, to wish you a Happy New Year and as we French Canadians say "le paradis à la fin de vos jours". I think you will have earned it after the hell we put you through several times during the session now coming to an end.

I should like also, on behalf of all my colleagues in the Liberal party, to wish a Happy New Year to all hon. members.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I thank hon. members for their very kind comments, which I appreciate most sincerely. May I extend to hon. members my best wishes for a happy, prosperous and successful new year. I extend this wish to every member individually, and I thank each member individually for the kindness shown to the Chair at all times. The job of the Speaker is not always easy.

[Translation]

I wish to thank my colleagues for their kindness and all the good things they have said about me. May the New Year bring them joy, health and happiness. I invite them anew to come and give a bit more tangible expression to the mood we are in now.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 12.44 p.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

• (6:45 p.m.)

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 6.49 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It being after five o'clock p.m., and pursuant to the order adopted this day, this House stands adjourned until it appears that the House should meet for the purpose of giving royal assent to Bill C-176 or that other circumstances under the provisions of the order made earlier this day dictate that the House should meet.

At 6.50 p.m. the House adjourned, pursuant to special order.