

entertain or to enter into debate at another time, subject of course to the usual proceedings and the matter being again brought before the House.

At this moment I have before the House debate on the subject of the riding of Lachine in the Province of Quebec. I would point out to Hon. Members that it is a particularly interesting case as it happens to be the riding I have the honour to represent, but I am not allowed by regulation or by Standing Order to enter into discussion in that regard. In that case I would proceed to recognize the Hon. Member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert).

I am also aware that in one particular case one of the Ministers of the Crown has a flight to catch and will ask whether she might seek the unanimous consent of the House to accommodate her in that regard.

I will now recognize Hon. Members on points of order so that we may proceed.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, you have stated what the intention of the Chair is to be at three o'clock. With great respect, I suggest that that initiative is a Member's initiative and not that of the Chair. It was my intention, and I so conveyed it to the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Evans), that I would be rising at five minutes to three to make a suggestion to the House, which I think will be acceptable, as to how to deal with these matters by three o'clock, by unanimous consent.

With respect to the Hon. Minister who has an airplane to catch, we would be very pleased to accommodate her if you would be disposed to call the objection she is interested in prior to the calling of any others.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I commend you on the clarity with which you defined the situation. Prior to the luncheon adjournment you indicated that it might be possible to have a list of the objections by electoral district or riding distributed to every Member. I wonder if it has been possible for the Clerk to arrange for that to be done.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): May I refer Hon. Members to the projected order of business for the day. The Clerks at the Table have accepted the request made earlier through the Chair that the series of objections be made available to all Members of the House. They are in the order that I have described, that is, by time reference to when they appeared in the hands of the Chair. Unless the House chooses some other mechanism of doing business, that would be the order in which I propose to continue.

That leaves me a problem and perhaps I can resolve it by suggesting that if the Hon. Member for Vaudreuil is agreeable to the proposal made by the Hon. Member for Yukon, we would put aside debate on the riding of Lachine for the moment and allow the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mrs. Erola) to proceed with the objection in which she is interested.

Is that agreeable to all Members of the House?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the convenience of being able to present my objections this afternoon and I thank Hon. Members of the House for their kindness.

I rise today on a matter of supreme importance to my constituents. I might add that I had promised them that today was going to be the day I raised these objections, and they are most keen to hear them.

I might add as well that I am doing what I think is the most important thing a Member of Parliament is elected to do, and that is to protect and fight for the people we represent.

There are few more solemn bonds in our national institutions than those between the electors and the elected. To the elected official, the people in the communities he or she represents are not numbers on a StatsCan ledger, or social insurance or telephone numbers. They are not a faceless collection of nondescript human ciphers. Our constituents are the women, men and children we meet in our offices, on the street, in the schools, stores and businesses, at the untold number of meetings and social gatherings we attend. They are real people with real concerns, opinions, and attitudes. They have something to say and it is my job to listen and bring their concerns to the House. We must see that whatever subsequent action that may be required is taken to make government represent fully their interests and satisfy their wishes.

It is true that the women and men elected to represent a constituency by necessity assume a sense of geographic parochialism. In most cases it is a sense of home and family. One does not arbitrarily toss a dart at an electoral map and declare an intention to run for office and then pretend to truly represent the people residing therein. We are elected not because we hope to descend from on high and offer our services to the people we hope to represent. No, Mr. Speaker, we must be totally a part of the people, chosen through their collective wisdom as the person they feel most comfortable with as their voice in the larger institution of government.

Consequently, a Member of Parliament regards the people of his or her riding with not only respect, a sense of service and a desire to better their lives, but with a certain reverence much akin to the sanctity of the family. Each and every person who resides in my riding is important to me, no matter what his or her political affiliation, regardless of whatever disagreements there may be with my particular views on any number of issues. Let me assure you that they let me know! As in any family, differences exist, but the bond of commonality, of shared interests and experiences, transcend the strains which may occur from time to time.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in this chamber, so distant in geography and daily experience from the people of Nickel Belt, to come to the defence of communities in my riding which threaten to be orphaned—literally orphaned—by the electoral distribution process.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I never thought I would find myself forced to justify to the higher powers the inclusion, the continued membership in the Nickel Belt family, of the Town