

National Unity

● (1900)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. There was some confusion earlier in the day when the two-hour debate was beginning. At that time it was about two minutes past five and I indicated, therefore, that the debate would stop at two minutes past seven. Then we got into some discussion about a point of order, about government business and so on, and the debate did not in fact begin until closer to ten minutes past five, so I wonder if the House would not think it appropriate to allow the hon. member for Battle River five minutes rather than two.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I should like to say first of all how pleased I am to have this opportunity to participate, even for a short time, in a debate on such an important topic as national unity. It has been labelled one of the most important debates in this decade or perhaps since Confederation.

While we must all pay due attention to the issue of language the fact of the matter is that language is not the only issue that is dividing people in this country, and that we have to pay attention to many other important problems which are facing the country. I have a whole list here but will be unable to illustrate my point because of the lack of time. I would like to draw attention to what I think is a very sad situation indeed—that while we are debating one of the most important problems facing the nation in the last decade, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has seen fit not to be in the House this day but has instead put politics above Canada; he has instead put the Liberal party above the country. He has moved to the western part of the country, together with the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Horner), carrying with him a basket of plums, and I might suggest that those plums were not raised from seed but come from the result of clever grafting—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Malone: Here he is, not in the House on what is an issue of absolute and utmost importance.

There is a need for a much greater extension of time to speak in this debate and with this in mind, and with the feeling that there ought to be more time for this debate, and recognizing the reasoned amendment which was put forward by the leader of my party, and because I do not have time, in this short allotment which was given to me, to put forward the case I would like to, I will sit down at this time and ask that a vote be taken on the amendment because I think the House should have the opportunity to have that parliamentary task force; there is no one quite like a member of parliament who has touched on all the various kinds of natures of people in the various constituencies of this country, and I would hope the amendment could be put.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Duclos.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member must realize, of course, that there is nothing inherent in the setting aside of a limited time for debate to indicate that at the expiry of the time the debate is concluded. It would be implicit in the hon. member's suggestion that the debate on the subject or upon the amendment concludes at this point. That is not a part of the order, and it is certainly not a part of the understanding which has been expressed.

An hon. Member: Let them stand up and we will have a vote now.

Mr. Speaker: I simply wish to advise the hon. member that there is no such understanding. I am sure hon. members would not want to consider that the debate on this subject is now concluded.

Mr. Malone: My proposal is that the vote be taken now, because that would be a reflection of the view of the House—that parliament ought to have more say.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member should realize that what he would be asking me to do is not to recognize other speakers in the debate, which I must do, of course. In any event I have indicated that the hon. member for Battle River ought to have five minutes in which to speak. Those five minutes have almost expired and as we approach 7.06 p.m. the debate does, in fact, come to a conclusion at this point.

It being 7.06 p.m. I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

● (2010)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS*[English]***EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION
REORGANIZATION ACT**

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION, ETC.

The House resumed, from Tuesday, July 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Cullen that Bill C-27, an act to establish the Department of Employment and Immigration, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and the Canada Employment and Immigration Advisory Council, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, and to amend certain other statutes in consequence thereof, be read the third time and do pass.