

*Extension of Sittings*

This morning we came to the House prepared to work again. However, we were faced with this motion which, according to the Government, is meant to speed things along. While Members are ready to debate, we cannot do so because we must fight a motion that is almost unprecedented in the history of this House.

The Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby) demonstrates the attitude we have heard all week. He said: "We have the majority, we write the rules, and all you have to do is follow them". That completely rewrites more than 300 years of British parliamentary tradition. It is utter arrogance. It is complete stupidity. It is totally unacceptable to this Parliament.

● (2400)

I think this House, in the interests of maintaining that tradition of parliamentary control, should vote against the motion that is before us and the amendment to it. We should then be able to continue on with the normal parliamentary process which is much less hazardous than this and gets much more work done than this Government has been demonstrating it can do this week. I say let us have the vote. Let us revert to correct parliamentary process. Let us reject this motion and allow the House to function as the House was meant to function.

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Madam Speaker, my hon. friend opposite says that this debate is about the rules. This debate is about getting on with the business of Canada. That is what this Government has been attempting to do for some time.

In as much as this is the first time that I have risen to participate in debate in the House, I would beg your indulgence to allow me to compliment you on your appointment, Madam Speaker, and indeed your colleague, the Hon. Mr. Speaker, on his election. At the same time, I would like to pay tribute to the man who preceded me as the Hon. Member for South Shore, a man who served this Parliament, this country, and indeed Nova Scotia from June 10, 1957, until November 21, 1988, the Member of Parliament for South Shore for 31 years, five months, and 11 days, the Hon. Lloyd Crouse, PC.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McCreath:** Lloyd Crouse served the House of Commons with great distinction for many years. He is a great Canadian. He is a very much beloved Nova Scotian. He is the most popular man on the South Shore, and that is a reputation that is much deserved.

I would like, if I may, also to thank the constituents of the South Shore who have elected me to represent them in Parliament and to assure them that I will do the best I can to do that effectively. That is why I wish to speak in this debate on the motion.

The people of the South Shore are people who like to get on with the business of life. They are people who like to see economic growth. They are people who are self-reliant. They are people who believe in getting on with the business of the day.

It is an historic time for those of us who are new Members to enter the Chamber and to participate in the debates of this House. What we have in the debate that is before us and in the business before the House this week is a logical follow-up to the economic growth and development that the Conservative Government has brought to our country during the course of the last four years.

This new agreement represents an opportunity and a challenge for Canadians. It strengthens our entrepreneurship, it strengthens our identity as Canadians, and it is a sign of the self-confidence that we have developed as a nation moving toward the twenty-first century.

This debate, as I said before, is about time. The time for talk has passed. We have had enough talk. The people of the South Shore have had enough talk. The people of Nova Scotia have had enough talk. The people of Canada have had enough talk.

Contrary to what I have heard from the other side of the House this evening, Canadians in my part of the country and, I suspect, right across this country are ready for Parliament to deal with this Bill so they can get on with the other business of Canada. Really and truly, what this debate is about are the perceptions that Canadians have about Canada.

Clearly, during the last few months Canadians have been presented with two alternatives to the approach to governing this country. One Party has offered positivism, an upbeat approach and confidence in the country and in our future. The alternative presented has been negativism, fear, and disconsolation. This governing Party is the Party that has offered positive leadership to the country, and that is why Canadians opted for this Government on November 21.

This Government is one that leads the way. I would like to say that the South Shore joined in supporting this Government. By electing the Progressive Conservative candidate, it chose to go along with positive leadership.