

Extension of Sittings

People have said the Government has a mandate. Let me tell you, in British Columbia the mandate was very clear.

Mr. Dick: Get rid of Vander Zalm.

Ms. Langan: That, too.

Mr. Karpoff: That, too. The people of British Columbia understand that the Vander Zalm Socreds and the Tories are the same people.

Mr. Dick: No, we are not.

Mr. Karpoff: That is why they will get rid of both.

In British Columbia, people understand very well that this was a vote on the free trade deal. They voted very clearly against the Government, as did the majority of Canadians. Some 53 per cent of Canadians voted against the Government and against free trade.

Mr. Friesen: It was 57 per cent.

Mr. Karpoff: It was 57 per cent. Why not 58 per cent? Next time it will be 60 per cent.

Another thing I am very unhappy about is on a personal level. Like many other people in this House, I am the son of an immigrant.

Mr. McDermid: Are not we all?

Mr. Karpoff: My father left Russia because he belonged to a minority group and faced persecution. There were no laws to protect minority groups. There were no rules to protect minority groups. There was no parliament to protect minority groups. There was nothing like Standing Orders to protect minority groups.

My father left Russia and chose to come to Canada because he thought this country was based on parliamentary democracy. He thought all Canadian governments abided by House rules, by democracy. Yet, what do we find? That is not the case. That is one of the reasons I think it is so important that this kind of suspension of the rules not go forward.

There are many people who have come to Canada because they value democracy and freedom. Therefore, we should not allow a Conservative majority, simply because it has been elected and has its own political agenda, to set aside democracy.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hogue (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Vancouver Centre (Ms. Campbell)

quoted our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who said on a number of occasions that wealth is created by the citizens rather than by governments. And so one might add that the citizens of a country are not led by the economy, they are the ones who steer and manage the economy.

Our colleague from Langelier (Mr. Loiselle) supported this argument, and he delivered a speech which is a credit to the Conservative Party, its Members, and the vast majority of Canadians.

I quote:

"We saw quite clearly, in the way the people of Quebec participated in the national debate on the major economic issue of the recent campaign, to what extent the whole of Quebec shares in the confidence we have in our capacity to meet the new challenges involved in the globalization of trade. Massively, Quebecers joined millions of Canadians who felt free trade is the assertion of the national will to open out rather than shutting ourselves in, self-confidence rather than fear of new horizons."

Hon. Members are no doubt aware that the riding of Outremont, which I have the distinguished honour and privilege of representing in the House, is the image of our beautiful country. It is home to no fewer than 20 different cultural communities, and over 40 different languages and dialects can be heard there. We all know very well in the House that the riding of Outremont has a long and uninterrupted Liberal tradition at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. These people, representing every imaginable status in society as they do, stood up despite their traditional loyalty to a Party, despite a definitely positive perception of the overly and basically theoretical notion of social democracy. So these people stood up and voted, not to elect a particular candidate but to meet certain needs. A professional psychologist who teaches the subject and has been practicing for a little over 30 years is in a good position to single out these needs which explain why the people voted as they did in Outremont, a vote which faithfully reflects everything that happened throughout Canada.

An Hon. Member: The people have decided!

Mr. Hogue: The people of Canada thought it would be useful to bring back into office a program, a Prime Minister and a Party—

An Hon. Member: A wonderful team!