

*Questions of Privilege*

• (1500)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have been working with the Hon. Member for Central Nova, the Minister of National Revenue, on some important concerns, namely, Hawker Siddely which has now been moved into a position where it can be saved. Some 400 to 450 employees are in the process of being called back to work in Central Nova right now.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** The second phase of Hawker Siddely, which will guarantee long-term durable employment in the heart of Central Nova, in Pictou County, is well in train and will be resolved within the time frame set out of six months. That will guarantee the future of that industry in Central Nova.

We have brought forward a \$10 million Pictou County development fund to attract smaller industry to Pictou County. A \$40 million highways agreement has finally been concluded to ensure that tourism comes to Central Nova.

We have lots more that I will announce when I go down there in three weeks time on November 17.

## PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO HALIFAX

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. On Friday the Prime Minister had a choice between meeting the people of Central Nova, the unemployed of Central Nova, and the well-heeled Tories of the 500 Club. You had an option, Mr. Prime Minister; the Prime Minister had an option—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt will put his question.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Why did the Prime Minister pick the option of meeting with the well-heeled 500 Club Tory aristocrats rather than the unemployed workers of Central Nova who were there demonstrating?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, indeed my hon. friend is quite wrong. There were some protestors outside the hotel and I went to meet them. I did not shy away from them. I went to meet with them.

Anybody with a brain in his head knows that this is not representative of Pictou County or of Central Nova but I went to see them anyway. I also went in to see ordinary Canadians who support the Progressive Conservative Party.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Ordinary Canadians!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Yes, most of whom have not given, as has the Canadian Autoworkers Education Centre, \$26,000 to the NDP. These are small Canadians.

Let me tell him that I will never apologize for meeting with ordinary Canadians who want to support democratically a Canadian political Party.

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to bring to the attention of the House that the Hon. Member for Terrebonne wishes to rise on a question of personal privilege.

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[Translation]

## PRIVILEGE

DECISION OF MEMBER FOR TERREBONNE TO SIT AS AN  
INDEPENDENT MEMBER

**Mr. Robert Toupin (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, I came to politics with a great deal of idealism and a concern for justice and the common good. I admit that my way is not an easy one. I am a progressive social democrat who will fight for his principles to the very end and who will feel indebted only to his fellow citizens. When I see that injustice, inequity or danger of any kind threatens my fellow citizens or the democracy and freedom we have in this country, no political party is going to make me remain silent, under threat of expulsion from the party.

I have been publicly and privately repudiated by my Leader for having criticized an ultra leftist group that is a threat to the democratic values of this country, and for having said out loud that the group uses undemocratic methods and is, in fact, opposed to the recognition of Quebec's distinct character and to Bill 101. I shall go on saying this as loud as I can, and I want to warn the citizens of Quebec and Canada. My repudiation leaves me no choice. I must draw my own conclusions and accept the consequences of my actions.

However, I have two questions for my Leader. Why did he let me become a member of his Party? Did he think I was too naive to notice what was going on in his Party?

Mr. Speaker, it is with feelings of profound relief that I announce here in the House that I am leaving the ranks of the New Democratic Party.

As an Independent Member, I shall go on fighting for social and fiscal justice, in accordance with the principles of social democracy and political humanism. I shall continue to tell my fellow citizens the facts. And finally, I want to make it clear here in the House that I am and always will be a Quebecer first and a Canadian second.