

They are important areas like the item that his Liberal colleague just mentioned, which is the whole idea of the double majority where each region's vote is looked at and considered by the government. That is a very important issue.

The issue of real spending limits is also very important. There is the whole issue of making sure that the question that is going to go out to the people of Canada is done in a non-partisan way. All those major areas were defeated by the government.

In addition, there were other suggestions to make sure that the poor, the native people, the ethnic communities of this country and the women who may not have funding can take part in a referendum campaign. That is if they have some means of participating. Unfortunately, under the rules that the government put forward, it is basically a big-buck campaign. If you are rich, you campaign and others are excluded.

The Liberal Party did not get any of these major amendments. One of the things I noticed as I was going through the votes last night was that there is very little time left. We want a referendum. We want a fair referendum in the New Democratic Party, but a lot of the amendments that the Liberals voted with the government on last night, time after time after time, ensure that there will not be a fair referendum.

I ask him: "Why did you vote with the government so many times last night on important amendments? Second, since you did not achieve any of your main goals, how can you support such unfair legislation?" We want the people to decide. Why support this legislation?

Mr. Pagtakhan: Mr. Speaker, I had addressed all those concerns in my debate.

I would only say that there is an overriding concern which is that we should let the people decide irrespective of the imperfections in this bill. If the New Democratic Party agrees but will not give that opportunity for the people to express their will through a referendum, then it is the greatest hypocrisy that I have heard in this Chamber. The referendum will convey the message from Canadians. Let the will of Canadians prevail and not the

analysis that the New Democratic Party is trying to portray.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Resuming debate. The hon. member for Jonquière.

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 62, I make the following motion:

That the member for Richelieu now be given the floor.

Mr. Speaker, you may have noted that more than two members rose at once. I therefore make the following motion pursuant to Standing Order 62.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I appreciate the hon. members' patience.

You will understand that my reluctance to proceed too quickly is due to my concern for ensuring full compliance with the Standing Orders of this House and that certain conditions are met before this kind of motion is approved. I wanted to check with the clerks to make sure that such is the case, and indeed it is.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): In my opinion the nays have it.

And fewer than 15 members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Therefore the motion is lost.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in the past few days some members have not acted so eloquently and in a way that befits Quebecers.