

Government Orders

My colleague from Broadview—Greenwood mentioned a particularly important point. We sometimes reflect the mood of the people out there who are angry because of the high unemployment, the uncertainty of the future, the constitutional instability, the loss of jobs and the grief that they are suffering because they do not know whether or not the country will continue.

I think we need to exhibit that, but at the same time there are appropriate ways to do that.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I would have liked more time to explore certain aspects, but I realize my 10 minutes are up. Thank you.

[*English*]

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to sit here in the House and listen to my colleague from Winnipeg in his comments on the motion put forward before us here today.

I think his viewpoints were probably very closely reflected to mine and the action and the appropriateness of this House and how we should all hopefully respond to any comments that are so directed either to us or we are directing against someone.

I would like to ask this member if there was something that we could do immediately, if there is something that we could do today in this House, what would be the first thing that he would do?

Mr. Duhamel: I thank my colleague for her question.

If I were granted one wish today, I would say that the moment that there is inappropriate language, insensitive gestures, sexist and racial slurs that are used, that the whole House stand and condemn that member and that member not return to the House until we are satisfied with that type of behaviour would not recur.

I would also mount an educational program to sensitize people to what is happening. Sometimes there is a lack of sensitivity and understanding that prevents people from behaving appropriately. I think we need to take that in our own hands. We need to deal with it for the young people of the nation and for all Canadians at times.

Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. member on an outstanding speech.

I would like a further explanation in his quotation of "there is anger in the people". Would he be so kind as to expound on that phrase that he used.

Mr. Duhamel: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond. Thank you for the question.

The distinction I wanted to make is that my colleague from Broadview—Greenwood I think had made an extremely insightful point, that we are reflecting this anger, this frustration, this grief that has been suffered by Canadians. My point was that I think it is appropriate and necessary and that is what we are here for, to represent what we feel and what we hear out there. We have to do it in an appropriate kind of way. When I mentioned this anger I gave a few examples: the loss of jobs, high unemployment, the big bonuses. That is an affront to people. They get angry. They get angry that people receive bonuses, sometimes several times the size of ordinary salaries. Talking about the strikes and the violence that people see makes them very uncomfortable. The excessive taxation gets them so angry because they do not see themselves going forward, but going backward.

Reductions of services. We have talked about VIA Rail and CN. We talked about the postal services again today and someone receiving a bonus in excess of \$100,000 and postal service is being cut in my constituency as well as in others.

We talk about the double standard in pensions. I mentioned that double standard in pensions, our own pensions and others. We talked about taxation, insensitive, contradictory and unfair taxation. If I was to raise my child at home and someone else were to go out and work and get receipted day care, they would get income tax deductions. Married and unmarried couples with the same circumstances are taxed differently.

All of that gets people angry and frustrated. They see no hope for the future. We are having serious difficulties in the country; the fishermen without fish in the Atlantic provinces, western Canadians unable to sell their product and bankruptcies in Ontario. I could go on, but I think I have given an indication of how I feel and what I think is making people angry and very frustrated and disappointed with the whole process.