

Private Members' Business

improve the legislation in the long term. So when he worries about the exact date, I can tell the member for Bourassa that he will have ample time to examine these issues because in two weeks he will vote no and refuse separation and Quebec will still be part of Canada.

The member who spoke just before me mentioned that the Minister of Labour came to the House in a way that was a bit strange. I respectfully protested without disrupting the decorum of the House—

Mr. Nunez: As you often do.

Mr. Boudria:—as I do once in a while, and I specified that “a bit strange” in that case referred to her election.

We heard that many times in this House. We even heard a Bloc member say, a few weeks ago, that the labour minister was not as legitimate as other Quebec members because her constituents were mostly anglophones since she represents Westmount. We all remember those comments made in the House last week. The member for Bourassa heard them just as I did. He knows who uttered those words and he knows these comments were made.

We also heard a member say in this House—no, it was rather outside the House and the media reported it—that, in this referendum debate, maybe only the so-called old stock Quebecers should get involved in this issue. Surely the member for Bourassa does not support that theory. Indeed, I would be surprised if he did.

Mr. St-Laurent: Could we get back to the bill?

Mr. Boudria: The member opposite asks me to get back to the bill. It is not I who alluded to the supposedly strange way the labour minister—and we are talking about amending the labour code—was elected.

A few weeks ago, or should I say a few months ago, we heard derogatory remarks made against the member for Saint-Léonard, the secretary of state for parliamentary affairs, just because he also represented a riding composed mainly of an ethnic group that is different from that of other Canadians.

• (1825)

An hon. member: How is this relevant?

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I did not raise the issue of relevance. It is simply because, a few minutes ago, another member of this House referred to what he called a rather curious situation. I want to say a few more words about this curious situation because today a member of the media was the target of what I would call virulent attacks.

Joyce Napier, a well-known CBC reporter, was also insulted because her accent—I do not even know if this is true—is supposedly not quite the same as that of other Quebecers. This journalist was insulted in this way because another parliamentarian, this time the hon. member for Rimouski—Témiscouata, has decided that such attacks should be aimed not only at

members of other parties and of some cultural communities but also at members of the media.

Is this because the lady in question has a name that is—I do not know if it is English, Irish or Scottish—but the fact is that it is not—

Mr. Dubé: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have been listening to the hon. member for a while and his remarks are not at all relevant to Bill C-317, which deals with antiscale legislation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): I have been in the chair since the beginning of private members' business and I clearly recall another member making a speech on the bill, in which he addressed other issues as well.

On the other hand, the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell was certainly on the right track at the beginning of his speech.

An hon. member: Yes, at the beginning.

An hon. member: More or less.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): More or less, but still I feel that in the little time he has left, he will certainly get back on topic.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I simply want to use another quote to make a point and then go back to the main issue.

Here is the quote. It reads: “Canada has always protected French speaking people. It always let them be assimilated. If you know a bit of history—given your accent and your language, you may not have been a Quebecer at the beginning—did you study Quebec's history?”

I now go back to the main issue, but I want the House to know that, at least as far as I am concerned, those who applaud when the member for Rimouski—Témiscouata makes such comments should also be condemned, just like she was when she lashed out at another person, thus showing once again the separatists' intolerance. We saw that. We also saw that intolerance when the Leader of the Opposition made his statement about little white babies. We saw it in other statements too. We saw it today and we see it again with the applause of another member.

[English]

I will conclude my remarks by saying that we do not intend to support the legislation.

[Translation]

Mr. St-Laurent: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

We go to the trouble of introducing bills because we sincerely believe that the House serves some purpose, and I still believe it does. However, when I see the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell do what he just did for ten minutes, I begin to seriously question the true role of this House.