

*Extension of Sittings*

For four years I have been working with a team I think has been serving the community well, especially the Canadian electorate, because in those four years the conservative Party succeeded in reducing the deficit, in creating new jobs, in bringing provinces together. Also globally, Mr. Speaker, we succeeded in giving our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and our Canadian Government a credibility that had been lost for some years.

But having followed for four days the proceedings on the procedural matter, quite frankly I wonder what role the Opposition can play in the debate and what should that role be. Are we here to discuss a legislation that is good for the community, good for Canada, for everyone, or are we here to discuss procedure?

I feel we are wasting time, wasting the time of Canadians. They did not elect me for that. Why did they elect me? Because with the Free Trade Bill, Mr. Speaker, we have something good for their future, the future of our children. But during four days we have been discussing the procedural matter of whether we are going to speak through the night, whether we are going to discuss something? Listen now. I am not sure people in my constituency are proud of what the Opposition is doing. On this side we are so to speak muzzled because they are delaying matters. And on top of that, they rise and tell us we are delaying. On top of that, they rise and tell us we are being hypocritical, we did not act properly during the election campaign, Canadians did not vote for free trade.

Well, I will tell you something, Mr. Speaker. In the Province of Quebec . . . I was listening to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Pagtakhan) suggest we were asked questions on free trade during the election campaign. As far as I am concerned, I can tell you one thing: Not one question was put to me during the elections. Nobody told me: Your thing is no good, explain it to me. They all said: It is good for us, jobs will be created, go ahead. As proof, look at us Quebeckers—we were 57, I think, before the election, and now we are 63.

**An Hon. Member:** Laval is true blue!

**Mr. Ricard:** That is a fact! Laval is true blue!

So here is what I am telling myself: Why repeat that some one million plus Canadians voted against free trade and because of that, Mr. Speaker, we should start all over again holding public hearings, having committees travel across Canada, debate through mid-January or perhaps mid-February. Come on. They should be a little more serious. I think that today we should make a

final decision on that, adhere to our schedule and make the decision we had proposed with Bill C-130, complete before the end of December the debate on free trade so as to be in a position in January to implement what we said we would, what is good for the Canadian community, for Quebeckers and for people in Laval.

• (1700)

[English]

**Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North):** Mr. Speaker, I am particularly disturbed to find myself making my first speech in this House on a procedural motion.

**Mr. McDermid:** Then save it.

**Mr. Karpoff:** There are four reasons why I am unhappy about this. First, I am one of the new Members of this House. I was not here during the last debate on the free trade Bill. There are 126 other new Members who did not have the opportunity to discuss and lay before the House their concerns and those of their constituents over this Bill. I think it is shameful that the Conservative majority would try to prevent new Members of Parliament from having the opportunity to speak on such an important motion.

All the new Members of Parliament are not just on the opposition side. There are new Members in the Conservative benches who I think also would like the opportunity to stand up and say what they know about their constituents' feelings over the trade deal.

Second, I am representing a new riding. My riding is one of four new ridings in British Columbia. Surrey North was made up from parts of two ridings held for the last 15 or 20 years by Conservatives. That new riding voted solidly New Democrat because it wanted me to come to this House and speak on its behalf about this trade deal. Clearly it was unhappy and wanted changes. It wants protection for social programs and economic development. Yet, the Government is determined that we will not have ample discussion about it.

Surrey North is basically a family community. It is one of the fastest growing residential areas in Canada. Some 60 per cent of the new housing built in the lower mainland of British Columbia in the last five years has been built in Surrey North. The riding is made up of working families and they are deadly afraid of this deal. They are not the big multinational corporations. They do not sit on boards of directors. They have difficulty making ends meet. They cannot afford to risk unemployment and see their social programs eroded by this free trade deal.