Routine Proceedings

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker-

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am sorry, the Minister for International Trade.

• (1530)

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, in connection with the motion just moved, of which I was a co-sponsor, I want to say that the person whom we are honouring in this motion had a distinguished political and public career in two countries, Newfoundland and Canada.

I am delighted to have the chance to join in this expression of goodwill towards him, even though at times in the past, he has addressed me most severely. I join in the general admiration of his contribution to this country and to his province.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party caucus, I am pleased to second this motion. We all remember vividly the work that Joseph R. Smallwood did on behalf of the people of Newfoundland.

As a man who had a vision in terms of bringing Newfoundland into the Confederation of Canada and a nation-builder in terms of Canada as well as Newfoundland, I think we would be well advised to recall the approach that he often brought to those difficult discussions at that time, particularly in this time of nation-building ourselves.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order or on the same motion.

Mr. Lapierre: On the same motion, Mr. Speaker, since you did not recognize my point of order for which I had the floor.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member should know that there is such a thing as decorum in this House, and when a minister rises, I recognize the minister first before I recognize the hon. member.

An hon. member: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the hon. member rising on a point of order or is he replying to this motion?

[Translation]

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I support the hon. member from Newfoundland, because Joey Smallwood was one of the first to use the referendum formula. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the Smallwood precedent will be followed in reverse, with far more conclusive results and with no need for two referendums.

[English]

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Like my friend before me, Mr. Speaker, I will be very short. I certainly support the motion. I was consulted beforehand.

What I want to let the House know—especially the other side of the House—is one of the reasons that Joey Smallwood, one of the original fathers of Confederation, is the character he is, is the fact that he reached across many political boundaries.

I know, when it comes to the Newfoundland, political boundaries sometimes merge and dissolve. I just wanted to compliment the mover of the motion and the seconder to let people know in the House, especially on the government side, that here we have, in the best ecumenical way, the member for Burin—St. George's moving a motion and the member for St. John's West seconding it.

In conclusion, most members on the government side do not appreciate that many years ago there was a fellow called Brian Peckford who put in nomination the name of John Crosbie to run against the man we are now honouring, Joseph Smallwood.

In terms of the Christmas season, it is interesting and educational for government members to know that there can be many multitudes of cross-currents, so that one does not have to live and die one way or the other.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Nowlan: Brian Peckford put in nomination John Crosbie's name against a fellow called Joey Smallwood whom we are honouring today. I am glad we are, but let the government members not forget that there can be switches too.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Some hon, members: Order,