

Summer Recess

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (2140)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. The hon. member for Vegreville has the floor.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I am doing that right now because this institution is a place where Members of Parliament have the opportunity to come and speak on behalf of their constituents and their regions. I have simply been laying before this House of Commons a signal and a warning that all is not well out there. I am sorry the hon. member was not in his seat when I started my remarks because I wanted to make it very clear to Your Honour and to other hon. members of the House where my loyalties and commitments lie. Having said that, one should never be ashamed of speaking his mind and telling it like it is. I have attempted to convey to hon. members not only my views and the views of people who have written widely in the west, who are business and community leaders, but, indeed, also the views of former Liberal members of parliament. I certainly did not put those words into Dr. Harries' mouth. He is a man of integrity and high principle.

An hon. Member: He is not a socialist.

Mr. Mazankowski: He is not a socialist, that is right. He is a Canadian, and he is concerned about the vicious destruction which has taken place at the hands of the government as far as western Canada is concerned.

I can give another example of the treatment of our resources. It is rather interesting to see how, just recently under Bill C-108, the government conveniently used an amendment with regard to the National Energy Board to exempt electric power export licences from the broad new powers of the Board. This means that while oil and gas export permits are cancellable without warning by the National Energy Board, the same does not apply to electric power which is exported to the United States. It is precisely this kind of double standard, as contained in Bill C-108, which is creating dissension, division—

An hon. Member: Corruption.

Mr. Mazankowski:—and corruption, as the hon. member says. But it is certainly creating division and frustration as the result of the alienation which is aiding and abetting the separatist cause in western Canada.

We must put Canada first. Our energy resources, whether they be oil, gas, or coal power, are all the same. They are very precious and we need them. If we are to put Canada first—Mr. Speaker, would you ask the hon. member to either direct a question to me or to sit down and listen?

Mr. Laniel: I would like to ask the hon. member if he is not abusing the situation, as I could have when I came here 20 years ago and could not get a francophone to answer me at the door, or get French service in all departments, and saw Quebec forgotten on many issues, but I did not blame it on the west.

What you are doing is against the east only, you know. Why do we not fight together for Canada?

Mr. Mazankowski: I am very glad the hon. member asked that question because I certainly have no objections to the advances and progress made in Quebec, particularly the progress around here with respect to the furtherance of bilingualism and the francophone cause. I have absolutely no objection. I simply ask him to listen, because there are no Liberal members in the government from western Canada. This is our only opportunity to present our views.

I am speaking tonight as I would speak to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and to the whole cabinet. I am simply saying that there are some problems out there, and that they should listen and pay heed. They have an opportunity over the course of the summer to go out and examine, investigate and hopefully reconsider the destructive course they are on.

As I said when we were dealing with energy resources, if we are discussing a Canada policy, then that policy should apply to all energy resources in the same manner. There should not be a double standard. We take offence to that and it is part of the fodder which the western separatist cause is using.

What is unfortunate is that this deliberate anti-west policy has impacted very dramatically and negatively upon the industrial heartland of central Canada. With no drilling, no megaprojects, no exploration, there are no valves, cables, tools, machinery, pipe or steel being used.

Mr. McDermid: Transportation companies are not shipping.

Mr. Mazankowski: Let us consider what has happened to the transportation industry. One of the reasons we moved lots of grain this year is because there is nothing else to ship. It amazes me that the Liberal supporters in central Canada do not get their message through to their MPs. I have really remained convinced that Canada's economic—

Mr. Laniel: What is the position of the west on the Crow rate?

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I really expected to complete my speech and listen to other hon. members. I listened very patiently to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard). I would be very pleased to listen to my good friend who is heckling me across the way. I respect him, but I wish he would just simply keep his cool for a while. He can certainly respond if he wishes, at a more appropriate time.

To return again to my remarks concerning the National Energy Program, I am convinced and will remain convinced that Canada's economic collapse began with the introduction of the program, and our economy will not recover until there are fundamental changes to that devastating program.

I referred to one example which has served to alienate and frustrate western Canada. I would like to refer to a couple of others. At the outset, one must say that while we spent an exorbitant amount of time dealing with the Constitution, the economy was faltering. Surely our preoccupation with the