

*Supply*

It is clear, in our opinion, that a variety of concepts are implicit in this kind of motion. It is clear that trilateral negotiations between the federal and provincial governments and the First Nations must be redefined. The First Nations have consistently said that the status quo is unacceptable. They are not alone in that respect. I think that as far as Quebec is concerned, the results of the last referendum indicated that the status quo was unacceptable and that the only option is sovereignty and greater autonomy. Sovereignty will give us that greater autonomy, and we see the same need for autonomy among the First Nations.

The Reform Party's motion also implies a desire to block negotiations for strictly political reasons which I will be glad to enumerate later on. But how could anyone consider putting a stop to a peaceful and equitable process that will redress the injustice perpetrated 150 years ago? We are about to begin a negotiating process, and out of the blue, for purely political reasons, the Reform Party introduces a motion to block negotiations that are peaceful and will correct past injustice.

This is totally unacceptable to us, and as I said before, it should come as no surprise that the Bloc Quebecois intends to vote against this motion. We should remember that cases involving aboriginal peoples and aboriginal rights are probably the oldest human rights issues in Canada. These issues remain unresolved, and this is a chapter of Canada's history that has been left unfinished. Attempts are being made to remedy this elsewhere. Attempts are being made across Canada, and in British Columbia the circumstances seem to have been ideal for bringing these negotiations to fruition.

Now we have a proposal that would simply terminate these attempts. The debate on aboriginal rights started only twenty or thirty years ago and has been pursued openly and with great zeal in the political and public arenas. Unfortunately, this proposal would simply extinguish those rights, blocking the whole process that led up to the current situation where we have all parties in a position to negotiate on the same level. This is a proposal we cannot accept.

• (1510)

I want to read the motion, because we feel that the Reform Party is not the only one to blame here. I think the motion reveals the true colours not only of the Reform Party, but also of the Liberal Party. The motion reads as follows:

That the House urge the government to not enter into any binding trilateral aboriginal treaty or land claim agreements in B.C. in the last year of the current provincial government mandate in order to respect the views of British Columbians on this issue as expressed by both major provincial opposition parties.

I talked with some of my colleagues from British Columbia and I learned that one of the two major opposition parties in B.C.

is the Reform Party. Of course, my colleagues hastened to tell me that the national Reform Party does not recognize any provincial subsidiaries. However, I find it strange that the Reform Party would put forward a motion supported by an opposition party in B.C. which happens to have the same name as it does.

We now see the true colours of the Reform Party. But we also see the true colours of the Liberals. I heard my colleagues talk about their opposition to this motion. When we listen to the members of the Liberal government and when we look at the measures they take, we can see the true nature of these people. We can tell by their attitude towards the native people.

When I look at everything the Liberal Party has proposed for the native people and when I see that the B.C. Liberal Party is behind this motion, the first question I ask myself is why has the Liberal Party here, in Ottawa, not contacted its brother, the B.C. Liberal Party, to try to settle this issue.

I think that the current government here, in this House, is hiding behind the public opinion, which, as we may see later on, might well be unamenable to this initiative. Why is it that the Liberal Party and the Indian Affairs Minister have not called the person in charge of the B.C. Liberal Party, one of the opposition parties in that province? One has to wonder about that. Especially since the policies put forward by this government in its famous red book have not even been implemented yet; we think that the Liberal government is dragging its feet on this issue.

The famous self-government policy that was denounced by all aboriginal representatives in Canada is a case in point. This policy was developed behind closed doors, without consulting aboriginal leaders and representatives. We now have a proposal that will be difficult to put in place because it was not approved by aboriginal representatives.

The same goes for the red book promise to create a land claims commission. The other day, a British Columbia member tabled a motion stressing the importance of creating an independent commission. Once again, the Liberal government is dragging its feet on this issue. Even with their speeches opposing the Reform motion before us, we wonder if they are not in fact a little responsible for what is now happening in British Columbia.

This is a purely political matter. If we look at the motion before us, we know that an election will be held one year from now. What does this mean? I see this as a dangerous precedent. It means that the world stops turning just before an election. The things that have been put forward, that have been working for a while, must stop because opposition parties are opposed to them. This is complete nonsense, in my opinion.