

Extension of Sittings

Mr. Prud'homme: Let my colleagues tell you.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Resuming debate.

Mr. Prud'homme: Madam Speaker, on a point of order. I think I got permission from my friends.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I did ask the House and I did hear some noes. I was quite prepared to allow the Hon. Member to continue, but I did not get unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Prud'homme: I will respect that, as Hon. Members know. I will conclude shortly and I will finish as harmoniously as I can. I remember that in 1884, I pleaded with the Prime Minister of Canada—

An Hon. Member: 1984.

Mr. Prud'homme: What did I say?

An Hon. Member: 1884.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Prud'homme: Well, I told you I was going to finish on a harmonious note. A great thing happened in 1884, but it will be too long to explain. In 1984, I did not hesitate in one of my speeches to call on the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) directly and say, "Mr. Prime Minister of the country, you wanted to deindex. You see the result". There is nothing wrong with backing off. There is nothing humiliating in backing off. That is the essence of Parliament. You listen, you feel passionately, you say you are going to go ahead with it, then you discover that people are not happy and there must be a reason why people are so upset. It is not because we lost the election.

Mr. McDermid: No, not that!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Prud'homme: My dear colleagues, look at me, you will see that I am not that unhappy. So to finish on a harmonious note, why would you not reflect during the weekend as you did in 1984, when you saw that you were totally on the wrong track? The Prime Minister of Canada decided, yes, Mr. Prud'homme should be listened to a little bit. There is nothing bad in backing off or, to call it differently, harmoniously trying to accommodate to what seems to be better.

I tell you, Madam Speaker, I am totally convinced, and I will not take too much more time of this House, but I am convinced without a shadow of a doubt that the way the Government is proceeding is not going to produce a harmonious parliament for the next four years, and we will be together to see it. Therefore, it is

still time for you Members opposite to change your opinion and to allow more Members to participate. I urge you to withdraw this unbelievable motion that is worse than the C. D. Howe one.

Mr. John E. Cole (York—Simcoe): Madam Speaker, I find it a little difficult to follow some of the debate today when I hear the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) say he wants to give more time to the newer Members. I happen to be one of those newer Members and he seems to want to keep going and going and going.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cole: I guess when you have your back against the wall that is all you can do.

An Hon. Member: And he has been here since 1884.

Mr. Cole: I am proud to be able to rise in the House of Commons to represent the people of York—Simcoe. The new riding of York—Simcoe is a riding made up of the heart of the Region of York which happens to be the fastest growing region of Canada. It consists of towns like Newmarket, Sharon, Georgina, which happens to be the ice fishing capital of Canada, Bradford, Beeton, Tottenham. In addition to being the commercial centre of the area, it also includes the vegetable basket of Canada, the Holland Marsh. It has many new industrial and manufacturing facilities. It really does represent a true cross-section and is a reflection of the population of Canada.

Fortunately, or maybe unfortunately, my campaign was only four weeks long, but it seems to be going on and on. It was very evident that the people of York—Simcoe, and because that is a reflective riding, the people of Canada, have spoken. They want a government that can lead this country when there are outside forces over which we as a country have no control. They have chosen a Party to form the government which has shown leadership, credibility and, yes, ability.

The Government reached an agreement when previous governments failed. The Free Trade Agreement is all about improving Canada's access to the U.S. market. The Free Trade Agreement increases the access of Canadian producers to the U.S. market through the elimination of tariffs and most non-tariff barriers such as quotas, import restrictions, custom requirements and various taxes, and through stricter rules of origin and non-discrimination for goods and services. This will help companies like Office Specialty, which happens to be in Holland Landing, in my riding.