

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I hope the House will allow the hon. member for Sainte-Marie to conclude his remarks.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That is an old, Liberal trick.

Mr. Valade: It is an old, Liberal trick—yet these are the people who have condemned the Conservatives and the Liberals for avoiding the issue.

Mr. Bell: The Liberals voted for them at one time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I have just proved by my remarks that the statements of the leader of the Ralliement créditiste (Mr. Caouette) that we are a great country which should respect the two founding groups are still valid. The hon. member for Témiscamingue outlined for the House his concept of a new federalism, which he commended. His party has just dared me to speak in the House otherwise than in French, an attitude which proves the hypocrisy of the Créditistes in this House while their leader claims to be the great champion of civil liberties, of the great democratic freedom of Parliament. He is the one—

Mr. Rondeau: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The Chair understands the hon. member is rising on a point of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I point out that it is ten o'clock sharp.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being ten o'clock p.m., it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 58(11) the proceedings on the motion have expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

AIR CANADA—SUGGESTED EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVE INDIAN GIRLS AS STEWARDESSES

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, on February 9 the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) indicated, in answer to a question prior to a supplementary put by me, that there was no racial discrimination in the hiring policies of the Department of Transport. I think the question originally had to do with the hiring of native people. I was prompted to ask the supplementary question, requesting the minister to use the influence of his office to see that no discrimination

[Mr. Valade.]

was practised by carriers and other agencies that come under his jurisdiction.

Like other hon. members who represent western constituencies, it is natural that I travel across Canada frequently, and since I am not yet blind nor, I hope, senile I have often had occasion to observe air hostesses. I do not imagine I am unique in that masculine pastime. I refer to air hostesses, stewardesses—in particular, those employed by Air Canada. I have seen and heard, and gathered from their speech patterns, girls who obviously were born in Britain, some who sounded as if they were born in Germany, certainly a number of French-Canadian girls, West Indian girls, Chinese-Canadian girls and Canadian born girls of Caucasian origin.

● (10:00 p.m.)

An hon. Member: Any from Port Moody?

Mr. Rose: Not so far. But in all my travels I have yet to see a stewardess who looks as if she is of Indian or Eskimo ancestry.

An hon. Member: Or Métis?

Mr. Rose: Or Métis. I have asked myself, why is this? Surely a responsible Crown corporation such as Air Canada would not countenance something as pernicious as racial discrimination in its hiring policies. However, I have not seen any representatives of the indigenous peoples working in the capacity of air hostess.

If we rule out the possibility of racial discrimination—and I certainly rule that out as an overt practice—what are the other possible explanations? It may be said that one is that young, native, indigenous women are not interested in this occupation—but that would be strange, and most unlikely, because this occupation is one of the most attractive and is considered glamorous by many young women. It is therefore sought by young women. I know that a number of bush airlines employ young Eskimo and native men as pilots, so clearly indigenous people are not averse to flying.

Another explanation is that it is possible—indeed, it may be probable—that far too few of our young, native women can meet the entrance qualifications because of a long and tragic history of cultural collapse and sociological chaos. This has resulted from an educational system that is inadequate and has failed to prepare these young women to meet the entrance standards required by airlines.

It is because of the sociological chaos and cultural collapse that I raise this matter tonight. I think that the airlines should, as a matter of policy, actively recruit native Indian and Eskimo girls for stewardess positions. There are between 250,000 and 300,000 indigenous people in this country, and I believe that they are grossly underrepresented in positions of this kind, just as I believe that native Indians and Eskimos are grossly underrepresented in our secondary schools and colleges. It is time we did something to correct this situation.

I know that one or two natives were hired by Air Canada as long ago as 1965, and I believe that PWA also